



Board of Directors Meeting
Thursday, September 17, 2026, 4:00 p.m.
City of Fillmore City Hall Council Chambers
250 Central Avenue, Fillmore, CA 93015
AND
54170 Mountain Spruce, Big Creek, CA 93664

To participate in the Board of Directors meeting via Zoom, please access:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85480305580?pwd=ZnFBWGhtVU05dXd3REFkM255c0h6UT09>
Meeting ID: **854 8030 5580** Password: **FPBGSA**

To hear just the audio portion of the meeting, phone into:
Toll-free number: **877 853 5247** Meeting ID: **854 8030 5580**

AGENDA

1. CALL TO ORDER

1A Pledge of Allegiance

1B Directors Roll Call

1C Public Comments

Fillmore and Piru Basins Groundwater Sustainability Agency (Agency) will accept public comment concerning agenda items at the time the item is considered and on any non-agenda item within the jurisdiction of the Board during the agendaized Public Comment period. No action will be taken by the Board on any non-agenda item. In accordance with Government Code § 54954.3(b)(1), public comment will be limited to three (3) minutes per speaker per issue.

1D Approval of Agenda
Motion

2. UPDATES

2A Director Announcements/Board Communications:
Oral Reports from the Board.

Fillmore Pumpers Association Stakeholder Director Update

Piru Pumpers Association Stakeholder Director Update

Environmental Stakeholder Director Update

City of Fillmore Member Director Update

United Water Conservation District Member Director Update

County of Ventura Member Director Update

2B Executive Director Update

Information Item

The Executive Director will provide an informational update on Agency activities since the previous Board of Directors meeting of August 20, 2026.

2C Legal Counsel Update

Information Item

Legal Counsel will provide an informational update on Agency's legal issues and concerns since the previous Board of Directors meeting of August 20, 2026.

2D GSP Consultant Update

Information Item

Representatives from Daniel B Stephens & Associates will provide an informational update on the Agency's groundwater sustainability planning activities since the previous Board of Directors meeting of August 20, 2026.

3. CONSENT CALENDAR

All matters listed under the Consent Calendar are considered routine by the Board and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a Board member pulls an item from the Calendar. Pulled items will be discussed and acted on separately by the Board. Members of the public who want to comment on a Consent Calendar item should do so under Public Comments. (ROLL CALL VOTE REQUIRED)

3A Approval of Minutes

The Board will consider approving the Minutes from the Board of Directors meeting of August 20, 2026.

3B Approval of Warrants

The Board will consider approving payment of outstanding vendor invoices, as well as those paid during the period that the Board did not meet:

DBS&A	\$20,659.50
UWCD	11,107.00
Stillwater Sciences	93.00
CV Strategies	1,223.52

3C Monthly Financial Report

The Board will receive the monthly financial report for the Fillmore and Piru Basins Groundwater Sustainability Agency.

4. MOTION ITEMS

4A Subsidence Technical Memorandum

Motion

The Board will receive a presentation from Daniel B. Stephens & Associates on the Agency's updated Subsidence Technical Memorandum and provide comments and directions.

4B Potential Agency Projects for Consideration for Proposition 4 Funding

Motion

The Board will receive a presentation from Daniel B. Stephens & Associates

and staff on potential Agency projects, programs, plans and studies for consideration for potential Proposition 4 funding and provide comments and directions.

4C Executive Director Transition

Motion

The Board will consider alternatives for its Executive Director position and provide comments and directions.

4. FUTURE ITEMS

5. ADJOURNMENT

The Board will adjourn to the next **Regular Board Meeting on Thursday, October 15, 2026**, or call of the Chair.

Materials, which are non-exempt public records and are provided to the Board of Directors to be used in consideration of the above agenda items, including any documents provided subsequent to the publishing of this agenda, are available for inspection at UWCD's offices at 1701 N. Lombard Street in Oxnard during normal business hours.

The Americans with Disabilities Act provides that no qualified individual with a disability shall be excluded from participation in, or denied the benefits of, the District's services, programs or activities because of any disability. If you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, or if you require agenda materials in an alternative format, please contact the UWCD Office at (805) 525-4431 or the City of Fillmore at (805) 524- 1500. Notification of at least 48 hours prior to the meeting will enable the District to make appropriate arrangements

Approved: 
Board Chair Kelly Long

Posted: (date) September 14, 2026 (time) 12:30 p.m.

(attest) Eva Ibarra

At: <https://www.FPBGSA.org>

Posted: (date) September 14, 2026 (time) 12:35 p.m.

(attest) Eva Ibarra

At: <https://www.facebook.com/FPBGSA>

Posted: (date) September 14, 2026 (time) 12:40 p.m.

(attest) Eva Ibarra

At: UWCD, 1701 N. Lombard Street, Oxnard

Posted: (date) September 14, 2026 (time) 12:45 p.m.

(attest) Ana Cendejas

At: Fillmore City Hall, 250 Central Avenue, Fillmore, CA



Board of Directors Meeting
Thursday, August 20, 2026, at 4:00 p.m.
MINUTES

Directors in Attendance

Director John Garnica
Director Brian Hauss
Director Debbie Jackson
Director Gordon Kimbal
Director Kelly Long

Directors Absent

Director Candice Meneghin

Staff in Attendance

Anthony Emmert, executive director
Phillip Hall, legal counsel (virtual)
Eva Ibarra, clerk of the board
Patrick O'Connell, senior hydrogeologist (virtual)
Zachary Plummer, IT staff

Public in Attendance

Karina Calderon, UWCD (virtual)
Sara Guzman (virtual)
Michael Miller (virtual)
Tony Morgan, DBS&A
Todd Umstot, DBS&A

1. CALL TO ORDER

Director Kelly Long called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m.

1A Pledge of Allegiance

Director Long led the participants in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

1B Directors Roll Call

The Clerk called the roll. (Garnica, Hauss, Jackson, Kimball, and Long) 5 Directors were present. Director Meneghin was absent.

1C Public Comments

Director Long asked if there were any comments or questions from the public. None were offered.

1D Approval of Agenda

Motion

Director Long asked if there were any changes to the agenda. Executive Director Anthony Emmert mentioned one check was not listed on the agenda, although was part of the packet content. Director Long then asked for a motion.

Motion to approve the agenda, Director Garnica; Second, Director Hauss. Voice vote: 5 ayes (Garnica, Hauss, Jackson, Kimball, and Long) none opposed. Motion carries 5/0/1.

2. UPDATES

2A Director Announcements/Board Communications:

Oral Reports from the Board.

Fillmore Pumpers Association Stakeholder Director Update

Director Jackson had no update.

Piru Pumpers Association Stakeholder Director Update

Director Hauss had no update.

Environmental Stakeholder Director Update

Director Meneghin was absent.

City of Fillmore Member Director Update

Director Garnica reported that drilling for City of Fillmore Well #10 has been completed, and aboveground work is underway.

United Water Conservation District Member Director Update

Director Kimball said United's fall release from Santa Felicia is underway.

County of Ventura Member Director Update

Director Long reported the County is experiencing budget challenges and said public works is preparing for winter runoff. She also said California Association of Counties will be advocating for practical changes to SGMA.

2B Executive Director Update

Information Item

The Executive Director provided an informational update on Agency activities since the previous Board of Directors meeting of June 18, 2026. Mr. Emmert provided an update on the Chiquita Canyon Landfill Incident and shared information obtained during his meeting with landfill representatives on July 29. He stated that the Agency will include the Chiquita Canyon Landfill Incident in its SGMA Periodic Review documents. He concluded his update by announcing his plans to retire in November 2026. He offered to continue providing his services as Executive Director should the Board wish to retain him or assist with pursuing other options. This item will be added to the upcoming meeting agenda for board consideration.

2C Legal Counsel Update

Information Item

Legal Counsel had no update on Agency's legal issues and concerns since the previous Board of Directors meeting of June 18, 2026.

2D GSP Consultant Update

Information Item

Representatives from Daniel B Stephens & Associates provided an informational update on the Agency's groundwater sustainability planning activities since the previous Board of Directors meeting of June 18, 2026 (see slides). Mr. Tony Morgan introduced new employee, Todd Umstot, as replacement for Gus Tolley.

3. CONSENT CALENDAR

All matters listed under the Consent Calendar are considered routine by the Board and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a Board member pulls an item from the Calendar. Pulled items will be discussed and acted on separately by the Board. Members of the public who want to comment on a Consent Calendar item should do so under Public Comments. (ROLL CALL VOTE REQUIRED)

3A Approval of Minutes

The Board approved the Minutes from the Board of Directors meeting of June 18, 2026.

3B Approval of Warrants

The Board approved payment of outstanding vendor invoices, as well as those paid during the period that the Board did not meet:

DBS&A	\$45,179.00
UWCD	\$23,345.50
Aleshire & Wynder LLP	\$ 1,388.80
<u>June-Warrants</u>	
UWCD	\$44,760.46
Stillwater Sciences Inc.	\$14,502.25
The Fillmore Gazette	\$ 432.00
Aleshire & Wynder LLP	\$ 223.20
Missing - DBS&A	\$25,180.53

3C Monthly Financial Report

The Board received the monthly financial report for the Fillmore and Piru Basins Groundwater Sustainability Agency.

Motion to approve Consent Calendar, Director Garnica; Second, Director Hauss. Voice vote: 5 ayes (Garnica, Hauss, Jackson, Kimball, and Long) none opposed. Motion carries 5/0/1.

4. INFORMATION ITEMS

4A Watershed Water Resources Update Information

The Board received a presentation from United Water Conservation District on the Santa Clara River Watershed water resources for 2025-2026 Water Year and a preview of the upcoming 2026-2027 Water Year.

5. MOTION ITEMS

5A Task Orders with Stillwater Sciences for Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Motion

The Board approved Task Orders Numbers SWS-FY27-01 with Stillwater Sciences for as-needed technical and planning support services for the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 period.

Motion to approve, Director Kimball; Second, Director Garnica. Voice vote: 5 ayes (Garnica, Hauss, Jackson, Kimball, and Long) none opposed. Motion carries 5/0/1.

5B Task Orders with United Water Conservation District for Fiscal Year 2026-2027

Motion

The Board approved Task Orders Numbers UWCD-FY27-01 and UWCD-FY27-02 with United Water Conservation District for as-needed technical and planning support services for the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 period.

Motion to approve, Director Jackson; Second, Director Hauss. Voice vote: 5 ayes (Garnica, Hauss, Jackson, Kimball, and Long) none opposed. Motion carries 5/0/1.

5C Santa Clara River Watershed Committee

Motion

The Board approved joining the Santa Clara River Watershed Committee as a member agency and provided comments and direction.

Motion to approve, Director Jackson; Second, Director Garnica. Voice vote: 5 ayes (Garnica, Hauss, Jackson, Kimball, and Long) none opposed. Motion carries 5/0/1.

5D Waiver of Late Fees for Eva Magdaleno

Motion

The Board approved waiving late fees and interest in the amount of \$616.47 for Eva Magdaleno.

Motion to approve, Director Hauss; Second, Director Kimball. Voice vote: 5 ayes (Garnica, Hauss, Jackson, Kimball, and Long) none opposed. Motion carries 5/0/1.

4. FUTURE ITEMS

- Prop. 4 Projects
- Executive Director Alternatives

5. ADJOURNMENT

Director Long adjourned the meeting at 5:30 p.m., to the next Board Meeting on Thursday, September 17, 2026, or call of the chair.

I certify that the above is true and correct copy of the minutes of the Fillmore and Piru Basins Groundwater Sustainability Agency's Board of Directors Regular Meeting of August 20, 2026.

ATTEST: _____
Kelly Long, Chair, FPBGSA Board of Directors

ATTEST: _____
Eva Ibarra, Clerk of the Board



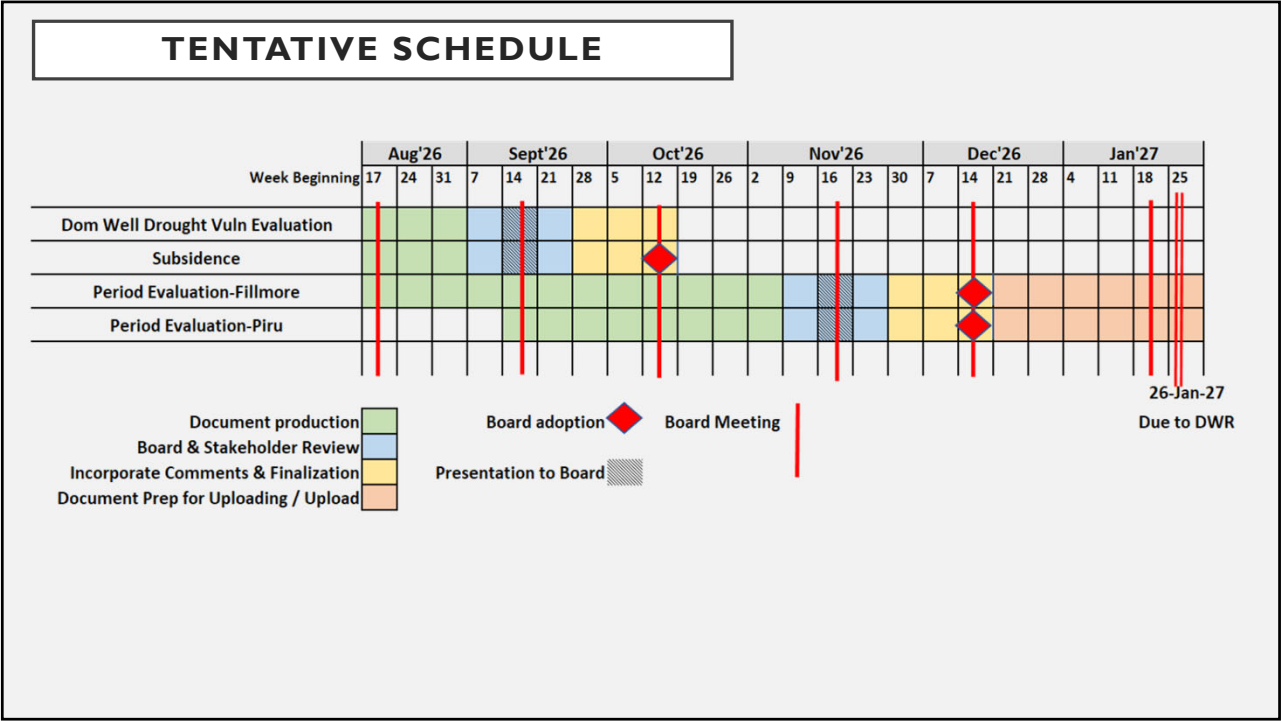
Board of Directors Meeting
20 August 2026
Item 2D GSP Consultant Update



Fillmore and Piru Basins
Groundwater Sustainability Agency

MAJOR ACTIVITIES

- **FY26-27 Task Activities**
 - **Preliminary drafts in progress:**
 - **Periodic Evaluations**
 - **Documentation of methodology for projected pumping volumes (tech memo)**
 - **Domestic Well Drought Vulnerability Evaluation**
 - **Land Subsidence Technical Memorandum**
 - **Tentative Project Timeline through Jan 2027**



DWR UPDATES

• Integrated SW-GW Interaction Guidance Document now expected Fall 2026

• Streamlined Annual Reports

- ✓ DWR creating online Annual Report submittal system - release expected Sept/Oct - public workshops coming
- ✓ Can opt to submit PDFs, if desired

DWR UPDATES

- **Prop 4 Grants**
 - ✓ ~\$403.25M for Sustainable Groundwater
 - **SGM Implementation Grants - ~\$320M**
 - **Draft Guidelines for SGM Implemention Grants - late Sept**
 - **Public comment on Draft Guidelines - Late Oct/Early Nov**
 - ✓ **Two phase application process**
 - **Concept Proposal - Spring 2027 - prequalify projects**
 - **Full Proposal - Summer/Fall 2027**

QUESTIONS?



Check Detail Report

Date	Transaction type	Num	Name	Amount
Citizens Business Bank				
29240				
09/10/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	11336	CV Strategies	-1,223.52
09/10/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	11336	CV Strategies	-1,223.52
Total for 29240				-\$2,447.04
29241				
09/10/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	11337	United Water Conservation District	-11,107.00
09/10/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	11337	United Water Conservation District	-11,107.00
Total for 29241				-\$22,214.00
29242				
09/10/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	11338	Stillwater Sciences Inc.	-93.00
09/10/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	11338	Stillwater Sciences Inc.	-93.00
Total for 29242				-\$186.00
29243				
09/10/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	11339	Daniel B Stephens & Associates, Inc.	-20,659.50
09/10/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	11339	Daniel B Stephens & Associates, Inc.	-20,659.50
Total for 29243				-\$41,319.00
Total for Citizens Business Bank				-\$66,166.04



ITEM NO. 3C Consent Item

DATE: September 10, 2026 (for September 17, 2026, meeting)

TO: Board of Directors

VIA: Anthony A. Emmert, Executive Director

FROM: United Water Conservation District Finance

SUBJECT: Monthly Financial Report

SUMMARY

The Board will receive the monthly financial reports for the Fillmore and Piru Basins Groundwater Sustainability Agency (Agency).

BACKGROUND

United Water Conservation District accounting staff has prepared financial reports based on the Agency revenue and expenses for the month of August 2026.

FISCAL IMPACT

None

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment A – August 31, 2026, Profit and Loss Budget Performance

Attachment B – August 31, 2026, Balance Sheet

Fillmore and Piru Basins, GSA
Budget vs. Actuals: FY_2026_2027 - FY27 P&L
July - August, 2026

	JUL 2026				AUG 2026				TOTAL			
	ACTUAL	BUDGET	OVER BUDGET	% OF BUDGET	ACTUAL	BUDGET	OVER BUDGET	% OF BUDGET	ACTUAL	BUDGET	OVER BUDGET	% OF BUDGET
Income												
40001 Groundwater Extraction Charge		0.00	0.00			0.00	0.00		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00%
47000 Other Revenue									\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00%
47001 Late Fees	1,112.15		1,112.15		344.20		344.20		\$1,456.35	\$0.00	\$1,456.35	0.00%
Total 47000 Other Revenue	1,112.15		1,112.15		344.20		344.20		\$1,456.35	\$0.00	\$1,456.35	0.00%
Total Income	\$1,112.15	\$0.00	\$1,112.15	0.00%	\$344.20	\$0.00	\$344.20	0.00%	\$1,456.35	\$0.00	\$1,456.35	0.00%
GROSS PROFIT	\$1,112.15	\$0.00	\$1,112.15	0.00%	\$344.20	\$0.00	\$344.20	0.00%	\$1,456.35	\$0.00	\$1,456.35	0.00%
Expenses												
52200 Professional Services									\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00%
52240 Prof Svcs - IT Consulting		666.67	-666.67		666.67	-666.67			\$0.00	\$1,333.34	\$ -1,333.34	0.00%
52250 Prof Svcs - Planning & Implementation									\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00%
52252 Prof Svcs - GSP Consultant									\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00%
5225A Professional Services Monitoring & Reporting									\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00%
5225A - A1 Monitoring Equipment	416.67	-416.67			416.67	-416.67			\$0.00	\$833.34	\$ -833.34	0.00%
5225A - A2 Routine Reporting	2,850.00	-2,850.00			490.50	2,850.00	-2,359.50	17.21 %	\$490.50	\$5,700.00	\$ -5,209.50	8.61 %
5225A - A3 Groundwater and Surface Water Data Gaps	4,504.67	-4,504.67			2,113.02	4,504.67	-2,391.65	46.91 %	\$2,113.02	\$9,009.34	\$ -6,896.32	23.45 %
5225A - A4 Biological Data Gaps	8,776.00	-8,776.00			1,473.61	8,776.00	-7,302.39	16.79 %	\$1,473.61	\$17,552.00	\$ -16,078.39	8.40 %
Total 5225A Professional Services Monitoring & Reporting	16,547.34	-16,547.34			4,077.13	16,547.34	-12,470.21	24.64 %	\$4,077.13	\$33,094.68	\$ -29,017.55	12.32 %
5225B Prof. Services- Shallow Well Vulnerability									\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00%
5225B - B1 Data Gathering & Vulnerability Analysis	5,389.83	-5,389.83			5,095.36	5,389.83	-294.47	94.54 %	\$5,095.36	\$10,779.66	\$ -5,684.30	47.27 %
Total 5225B Prof. Services- Shallow Well Vulnerability	5,389.83	-5,389.83			5,095.36	5,389.83	-294.47	94.54 %	\$5,095.36	\$10,779.66	\$ -5,684.30	47.27 %
5225C Prof. Services - Cienega Drought Project									\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00%
5225C - C2 Planning, Design, Permitting	2,073.67	-2,073.67			2,073.67	-2,073.67			\$0.00	\$4,147.34	\$ -4,147.34	0.00%
5225C - C4 Alternative Analysis	1,890.00	-1,890.00			1,890.00	-1,890.00			\$0.00	\$3,780.00	\$ -3,780.00	0.00%
Total 5225C Prof. Services - Cienega Drought Project	3,963.67	-3,963.67			3,963.67	-3,963.67			\$0.00	\$7,927.34	\$ -7,927.34	0.00%
5225D Prof. Services - GSP Updates									\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00%
5225D - D1 GW & SW Modeling	15,232.92	-15,232.92			3,416.98	15,232.92	-11,815.94	22.43 %	\$3,416.98	\$30,465.84	\$ -27,048.86	11.22 %
5225D - D2 Periodic Performance Evals. 5-Yr	12,468.92	-12,468.92			13,517.00	12,468.92	1,048.08	108.41 %	\$13,517.00	\$24,937.84	\$ -11,420.84	54.20 %
5225D - D4 GSPs Subsidence	5,288.50	-5,288.50			5,288.50	-5,288.50			\$0.00	\$10,577.00	\$ -10,577.00	0.00%
5225D - D5 GSPs Interconnected Surface Water	1,860.00	-1,860.00			1,860.00	-1,860.00			\$0.00	\$3,720.00	\$ -3,720.00	0.00%
Total 5225D Prof. Services - GSP Updates	34,850.34	-34,850.34			16,933.98	34,850.34	-17,916.36	48.59 %	\$16,933.98	\$69,700.68	\$ -52,766.70	24.30 %
5225E Prof. Svcs.- General Programs Support & Dvlpmnt									\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00%
5225E - E3 Gen. Programs Support	5,106.67	-5,106.67			1,753.85	5,106.67	-3,352.82	34.34 %	\$1,753.85	\$10,213.34	\$ -8,459.49	17.17 %
5225E - E4 Prop. 218 Process	2,916.67	-2,916.67			2,916.67	-2,916.67			\$0.00	\$5,833.34	\$ -5,833.34	0.00%
5225E - E5 Chiquita Canyon Landfill Incident	1,411.67	-1,411.67			1,411.67	-1,411.67			\$0.00	\$2,823.34	\$ -2,823.34	0.00%
Total 5225E Prof. Svcs.- General Programs Support & Dvlpmnt	9,435.01	-9,435.01			1,753.85	9,435.01	-7,681.16	18.59 %	\$1,753.85	\$18,870.02	\$ -17,116.17	9.29 %
Total 52252 Prof Svcs - GSP Consultant	70,186.19	-70,186.19			27,860.32	70,186.19	-42,325.87	39.69 %	\$27,860.32	\$140,372.38	\$ -112,512.06	19.85 %
Total 52250 Prof Svcs - Planning & Implementation	70,186.19	-70,186.19			27,860.32	70,186.19	-42,325.87	39.69 %	\$27,860.32	\$140,372.38	\$ -112,512.06	19.85 %
52270 Prof Svcs - Accounting	5,333.33	-5,333.33			967.60	5,333.33	-4,365.73	18.14 %	\$967.60	\$10,666.66	\$ -9,699.06	9.07 %
52275 Prof Svcs - Admin/Clerk of Bd	500.00	-500.00			326.86	500.00	-173.14	65.37 %	\$326.86	\$1,000.00	\$ -673.14	32.69 %
52280 Prof Svcs - Executive Director	3,416.67	-3,416.67			2,637.86	3,416.67	-778.81	77.21 %	\$2,637.86	\$6,833.34	\$ -4,195.48	38.60 %
52290 Prof Svcs - Other	8.33	-8.33			8.33	-8.33			\$0.00	\$16.66	\$ -16.66	0.00%
Total 52200 Professional Services	80,111.19	-80,111.19			31,792.64	80,111.19	-48,318.55	39.69 %	\$31,792.64	\$160,222.38	\$ -128,429.74	19.84 %
52500 Legal Fees									\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00%
52501 Legal Counsel	2,500.00	-2,500.00			2,500.00	-2,500.00			\$0.00	\$5,000.00	\$ -5,000.00	0.00%
Total 52500 Legal Fees	2,500.00	-2,500.00			2,500.00	-2,500.00			\$0.00	\$5,000.00	\$ -5,000.00	0.00%
53000 Office Expenses									\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00%
53010 Public Information	83.33	-83.33			83.33	-83.33			\$0.00	\$166.66	\$ -166.66	0.00%
53020 Office Supplies	83.33	-83.33			18.50	83.33	-64.83	22.20 %	\$18.50	\$166.66	\$ -148.16	11.10 %
53026 Postage & Mailing	83.33	-83.33			48.36	83.33	-34.97	58.03 %	\$48.36	\$166.66	\$ -118.30	29.02 %
53060 Computer Software	250.00	-250.00			250.00	-250.00			\$0.00	\$500.00	\$ -500.00	0.00%
53110 Travel & Training	83.33	-83.33			83.33	-83.33			\$0.00	\$166.66	\$ -166.66	0.00%
Total 53000 Office Expenses	583.32	-583.32			66.86	583.32	-516.46	11.46 %	\$66.86	\$1,166.64	\$ -1,099.78	5.73 %
53500 Insurance									\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00%
53510 Liability Insurance	250.00	-250.00			250.00	-250.00			\$0.00	\$500.00	\$ -500.00	0.00%
Total 53500 Insurance	250.00	-250.00			250.00	-250.00			\$0.00	\$500.00	\$ -500.00	0.00%
Total Expenses	\$0.00	\$93,444.51	\$ -83,444.51	0.00%	\$31,859.50	\$93,444.51	\$ -61,585.01	38.18 %	\$31,859.50	\$166,889.02	\$ -135,029.52	19.09 %
NET OPERATING INCOME	\$1,112.15	\$ -83,444.51	\$84,556.66	-1.33 %	\$ -31,515.30	\$ -83,444.51	\$51,929.21	37.77 %	\$ -30,403.15	\$ -166,889.02	\$136,485.87	18.22 %
Other Expenses												
Depreciation	858.33	858.33	0.00	100.00 %	858.33	858.33	0.00	100.00 %	\$1,716.66	\$1,716.66	\$0.00	100.00 %
Total Other Expenses	\$858.33	\$858.33	\$0.00	100.00 %	\$858.33	\$858.33	\$0.00	100.00 %	\$1,716.66	\$1,716.66	\$0.00	100.00 %
NET OTHER INCOME	\$ -858.33	\$ -858.33	\$0.00	100.00 %	\$ -858.33	\$ -858.33	\$0.00	100.00 %	\$ -1,716.66	\$ -1,716.66	\$0.00	100.00 %
NET INCOME	\$253.82	\$ -84,302.84	\$84,556.66	-0.30 %	\$ -32,373.63	\$ -84,302.84	\$51,929.21	38.40 %	\$ -32,119.81	\$ -168,605.68	\$136,485.87	19.05 %

Fillmore and Piru Basins, GSA

Balance Sheet
As of Aug 31, 2026

	Total
Assets	
Current Assets	
Bank Accounts	
10100 Citizens Business Bank	1,653,813.88
Total for Bank Accounts	\$1,653,813.88
Accounts Receivable	
11000 Accounts Receivable	594,950.32
Total for Accounts Receivable	\$594,950.32
Other Current Assets	
12000 Undeposited Funds	0.00
12900 Clearing Account	0.00
Total for Other Current Assets	\$0.00
Total for Current Assets	\$2,248,764.20
Fixed Assets	
Fillmore Piru Monitoring Wells (4 Wells)	\$515,000.00
Accumulated Depreciation - Monitoring Wells (4 Wells)	-32,616.54
Total for Fillmore Piru Monitoring Wells (4 Wells)	\$482,383.46
Total for Fixed Assets	\$482,383.46
Total for Assets	\$2,731,147.66
Liabilities and Equity	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	
20000 Accounts Payable	33,083.02
Total for Accounts Payable	\$33,083.02
Other Current Liabilities	
California Department of Tax and Fee Administration Payable	0.00
Out Of Scope Agency Payable	0.00
Total for Other Current Liabilities	\$0.00
Total for Current Liabilities	\$33,083.02
Total for Liabilities	\$33,083.02
Equity	
30000 Opening Balance Equity	515,000.00
32000 Retained Earnings	2,215,184.45
Net Income	-32,119.81
Total for Equity	\$2,698,064.64
Total for Liabilities and Equity	\$2,731,147.66



Item No. 4A Motion Item

DATE: September 11, 2026 (for September 17, 2026, meeting)

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Anthony A. Emmert, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Subsidence Technical Memorandum

RECCOMENDATION:

The Board will receive a presentation from Daniel B. Stephens & Associates on the Agency's updated Subsidence Technical Memorandum and provide comments and directions.

DISCUSSION:

The Fillmore and Piru Basins Groundwater Sustainability Agency (Agency) adopted Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs) for the Fillmore subbasin and the Piru subbasin in December 2021. The GSPs included a *Land Subsidence Evaluation Technical Memorandum* (Subsidence TM) as Appendix F of each GSP. In 2024, the Agency submitted amended GSPs but did not modify its Subsidence TM. In 2025, the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) issued several Recommended Corrective Actions (RCAs) to the Agency, including a recommendation on its approach to land subsidence. In 2026, DWR issued the final *Land Subsidence Best Management Practices*, which provided further guidance regarding land subsidence.

Subsequently, the Agency consulted with DWR about incorporating DWR's RCAs and best management practices into its evaluation and management of subsidence. This consultation helped the Agency shape its evaluation approach for these subbasins, which have no documented history of subsidence. The Agency then developed a new *Subsidence Technical Memorandum for the Fillmore and Piru Subbasins* (draft copy attached). When adopted, it will replace the original 2021 GSPs Appendix F.

Staff distributed the draft document to stakeholders on September 10, 2026, along with a comments matrix to facilitate organized feedback to the Agency's consultant team. Comments are due to the Agency Clerk by September 25, 2026. Daniel B. Stephens & Associates will provide the Board and stakeholders with an overview presentation during its September 17, 2026, Board meeting. The consultant team will review comments from the Board and stakeholders and prepare a final draft. The Board will consider adopting the document during its October 15, 2026, meeting.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There are sufficient funds included in the Agency's Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Budget to cover the proposed work.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 - Subsidence Technical Memorandum for the Fillmore and Piru Subbasins

Proposed Motion: Receive a presentation on the Agency's updated Subsidence Technical Memorandum and provide comments and directions.

1st: Director _____ 2nd Director _____

Voice/Roll call vote:

Director Garnica:

Director Jackson:

Director Kimball:

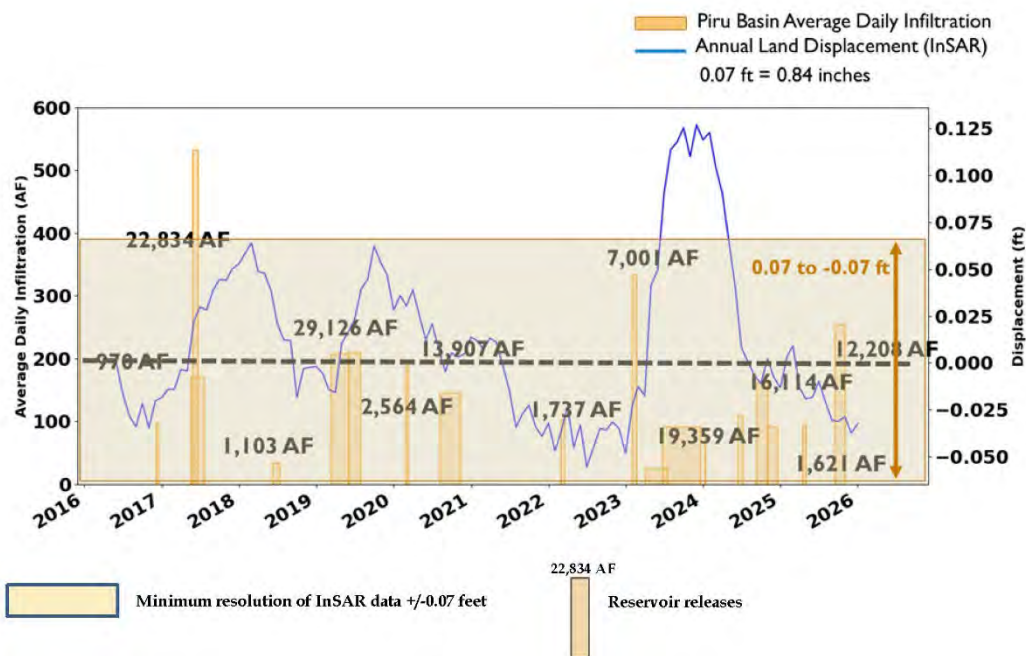
Director Long:

Director Meneghin:

Draft – Internal Review Only

Subsidence Technical Memorandum Fillmore and Piru Subbasins

Prepared for



Prepared by



www.dbstephens.com

0126.1040

September 4, 2026

Draft – Internal Review Only

Subsidence Technical Memorandum Fillmore and Piru Subbasins

Prepared for

Fillmore & Piru Basins Groundwater Sustainability Agency
Fillmore, California

Prepared by



This document has been prepared under the direction of a professional geologist and certified hydrogeologist licensed in the State of California as required by the California Code of Regulations, Title 23 Section 354.12. The findings or professional opinions were prepared consistent with professional standards of practice.

DRAFT

Signature:

Printed name:

Date:

DRAFT

Signature:

Printed name:

Date:

Table of Contents

Limitations of Investigation	iv
List of Acronyms and Abbreviations	v
Foreword	vi
1. Introduction	1
2. Background	3
2.1 Hydrocarbon Extraction	3
2.2 Basin Tectonics	4
2.3 Technical Approach	5
3. Previous Investigations	5
3.1 Groundwater Modeling	7
3.2 Geodetic Surveys	8
3.3 Extensometers	11
3.4 InSAR Data	12
3.5 Critical Groundwater Levels (from DBS&A, 2021, Appendix F)	15
3.6 Ventura County General Plan	17
3.7 California Department of Water Resources	17
4. Currently Active Subsidence Evaluation	18
4.1 Geodetic Data	18
4.2 InSAR Data	20
5. Sustainable Management Criteria	27
5.1 Significant and Unreasonable Impacts	28
5.1.1 Potentially Impacted Infrastructure	28
5.1.2 Undesirable Results	30
5.2 Minimum Threshold	33
5.3 Measurable Objectives	34
5.4 Interim Milestones	34
6. Subsidence Monitoring Program	35
6.1 InSAR Data	35
6.2 Groundwater Levels	35
6.3 Mitigative Actions	35
7. Conclusions	36

DRAFT - INTERNAL REVIEW ONLY – DO NOT CITE OR REFERENCE

References Reviewed	37
---------------------------	----

List of Figures

Figure 1-1. Land Subsidence Evaluation Workflow – Current Conditions	2
Figure 2-1. Fillmore and Piru subbasins area map showing CalGEM hydrocarbon extraction-related wells	4
Figure 3-1. Simulated subsidence in the Santa Clara-Calleguas groundwater subbasin due to groundwater withdrawal from 1891 to 1993. Modified from Hanson et al. (2003).....	7
Figure 3-2. Map showing CGPS locations and vertical movement time-series data provided by UNAVCO (DBS&A, 2023).....	9
Figure 3-3. USGS (1996) 1994 Northridge Earthquake report NGS leveling routes and contours of measured pre-seismic subsidence rates (mm/yr) from 1971 to 1989.....	10
Figure 3-4. USGS (1996) 1994 Northridge Earthquake report modeled coseismic uplift.....	11
Figure 3-5. InSAR monitoring locations (DBS&A, 2023).....	13
Figure 3-6. InSAR total cumulative displacement (DBS&A, 2023)	15
Figure 3-7. Well locations used for analysis of future subsidence potential (DBS&A, 2023)	16
Figure 4-1. CGPS stations near Fillmore and Piru subbasins	19
Figure 4-2. InSAR monitoring locations.....	21
Figure 4-3. InSAR time-series locations, general locations	23
Figure 4-4. InSAR time-series locations, infrastructure.....	24
Figure 4-5. InSAR total cumulative displacement	25
Figure 4-6. InSAR vertical displacement and reservoir releases	27

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List of Tables

Table 3-1. Previous Subsidence Evaluations.....	5
Table 3-2. Inelastic Subsidence Potential	6
Table 4-1. CGPS Long-Term Vertical Movement.....	19
Table 4-2. Reservoir Releases Upstream of Fillmore and Piru Subbasins.....	26
Table 5-1. List of Infrastructure Types and Potential Impacts of Subsidence (modified from DWR, 2025).....	29
Table 5-2. InSAR Resolution Compared to Infrastructure Differential Subsidence Tolerances...	34

List of Appendices

A	Response to Comments
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Limitations of Investigation

This investigation was performed using the degree of care and skill ordinarily exercised, under similar circumstances, by experienced geologists and hydrogeologists practicing in this or similar locations. No warranty, expressed or implied, is made as to the conclusions and professional advice included within this report. The findings of this report are valid as of the present date. However, changes in the conditions of a property can and do occur with the passage of time, whether they are due to natural processes or the work of people on this or adjacent properties. Accordingly, the findings of this report may be invalidated wholly or partially by changes outside of our control. Therefore, this report is subject to review and revision as changed conditions are identified.

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List of Acronyms and Abbreviations

AREMA	American Railway Engineering and Maintenance-of-Way Association
CalGEM	Geologic Energy Management Division (formerly DOGGR)
Caltrans	California Department of Transportation
CBC	California Building Code
CGPS	continuous global positioning system
DBS&A	Daniel B. Stephens & Associates, Inc.
DOGGR	Division of Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Resources (reorganized as CalGEM)
DWR	[California] Department of Water Resources
FPBGSA	Fillmore and Piru Basins Groundwater Sustainability Agency (also called GSA or Agency)
FRA	Federal Railroad Administration
ft/yr	feet per year
GPS	global positioning system
GSP	groundwater sustainability plan
IM	interim milestone
InSAR	interferometric synthetic aperture radar
mm/yr	millimeters per year
MO	measurable objective
MT	minimum threshold
NGS	National Geodetic Survey
OSHPD	Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development [California]
SGMA	Sustainable Groundwater Management Act
SMC	Sustainable Management Criteria
USACE	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
USGS	U.S. Geological Survey
UWCD	United Water Conservation District

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Foreword

The Fillmore and Piru Basins Groundwater Sustainability Agency (FPBGSA or Agency) adopted Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs) for both the Fillmore and Piru Basins in December 2021. The GSPs included a *Land Subsidence Evaluation Technical Memorandum* as Appendix F. Appendix F was not modified with the resubmittal of the GSPs in 2024.

Since the 2024 resubmittal of the GSPs, the Agency has consulted with the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) about incorporating the Recommended Corrective Actions (DWR, 2025a, 2025b) and the evaluation process described in DWR's Final Land Subsidence Best Management Practices (DWR, 2026) into an expanded treatment of subsidence. This consultation helped shape an evaluation approach for these subbasins with no documented history of significant subsidence.

This document is intended to completely replace the original Appendix F from the 2021 GSPs. Because this document is a total revision of the original technical memorandum, DWR concurred with the Agency's recommendation that a red-lined version of the original document was not necessary. ***This new technical memorandum supersedes the earlier version.***

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1. Introduction

Daniel B. Stephens & Associates, Inc. (DBS&A) has prepared this updated Fillmore and Piru Groundwater Subbasins Land Subsidence Evaluation Technical Memorandum for the Fillmore and Piru Basins Groundwater Sustainability Agency (FPBGSA or Agency) and is under contract to assist with the preparation of their Periodic Evaluations and Amended GSPs for the two subbasins. Although the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) requires separate plans to be prepared for each subbasin, Fillmore and Piru subbasins are hydrogeologically connected and have historically been managed and monitored together. The FPBGSA Board of Directors has memorialized in Resolution 2021-05 their intent to continue this precedent and to manage these subbasins together. In keeping with this historical precedent, this technical memorandum has been prepared to cover both subbasins. This document includes references to appendices in the GSPs to provide supplemental information on several topics.

SGMA identifies land subsidence as one of six sustainability indicators. This technical memorandum summarizes the physical processes that cause inelastic subsidence, reviews previous investigations and current geodetic and interferometric synthetic aperture radar (InSAR) data, and evaluates the susceptibility of both subbasins to future subsidence. DBS&A (2021, 2023) provide the Agency's earlier analyses of the subsidence indicator.

Responses to the stakeholder comments on the draft updated Subsidence Technical Memorandum (insert date) are provided in Appendix A.

This evaluation addresses two primary questions: (1) Is subsidence currently occurring in the subbasins and (2) Is subsidence likely to occur in the future? The evaluation process is summarized in Figure 1-1.

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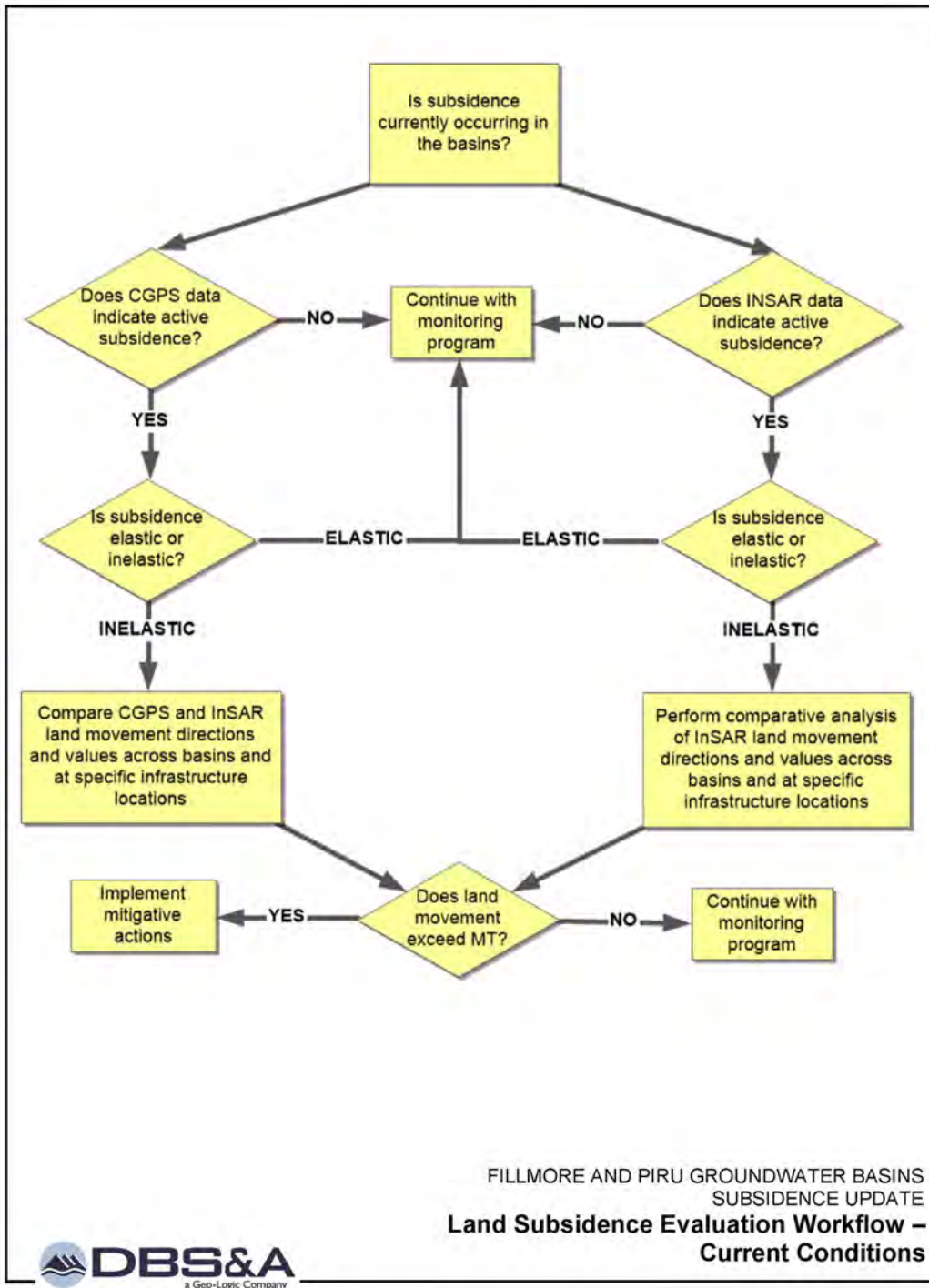


Figure 1-1. Land Subsidence Evaluation Workflow – Current Conditions

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2. Background

Land subsidence caused by groundwater or hydrocarbon extraction has been documented in many parts of California. When fluid withdrawal lowers pore pressure, more of the overlying weight is transferred to the sediment framework. Fine-grained sediments can compact under this increased effective stress, reducing both land-surface elevation and aquifer storage. If the land surface recovers as groundwater levels rise, the movement is elastic. If it does not recover, the movement is inelastic and the lost storage is essentially permanent. Poland (1984), Poland and Davis (1969), and the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) (1999, 2016) provide detailed discussions of these processes. SGMA focuses on inelastic subsidence because it can permanently reduce groundwater storage and damage infrastructure.

Hanson (1995) identified three potential causes of land-surface movement in Ventura County: groundwater extraction, hydrocarbon extraction, and tectonic movement. The GSPs describe the long-term increase in groundwater pumping from the late 1800s through the late 1980s. This section briefly addresses tectonic movement and nearby hydrocarbon production, but the remainder of the technical memorandum focuses on subsidence associated with groundwater-level decline.

2.1 Hydrocarbon Extraction

Hydrocarbon extraction has occurred in Ventura County for many decades; however, no extraction-related subsidence has been documented within the subbasins. Figure 2-1 shows oil and gas wells listed by the California Geologic Energy Management Division (CalGEM, formerly DOGGR). Most active production occurs outside the subbasins in surrounding mountain areas. A few active wells in the Bardsdale and Shiells Canyon Oil Fields are less than 0.25 mile inside the southeastern Fillmore subbasin boundary, and three active Holser Oil Field wells are just inside the Piru subbasin boundary in Holser Canyon. No subsidence has been reported in association with these wells or with nearby oil fields.

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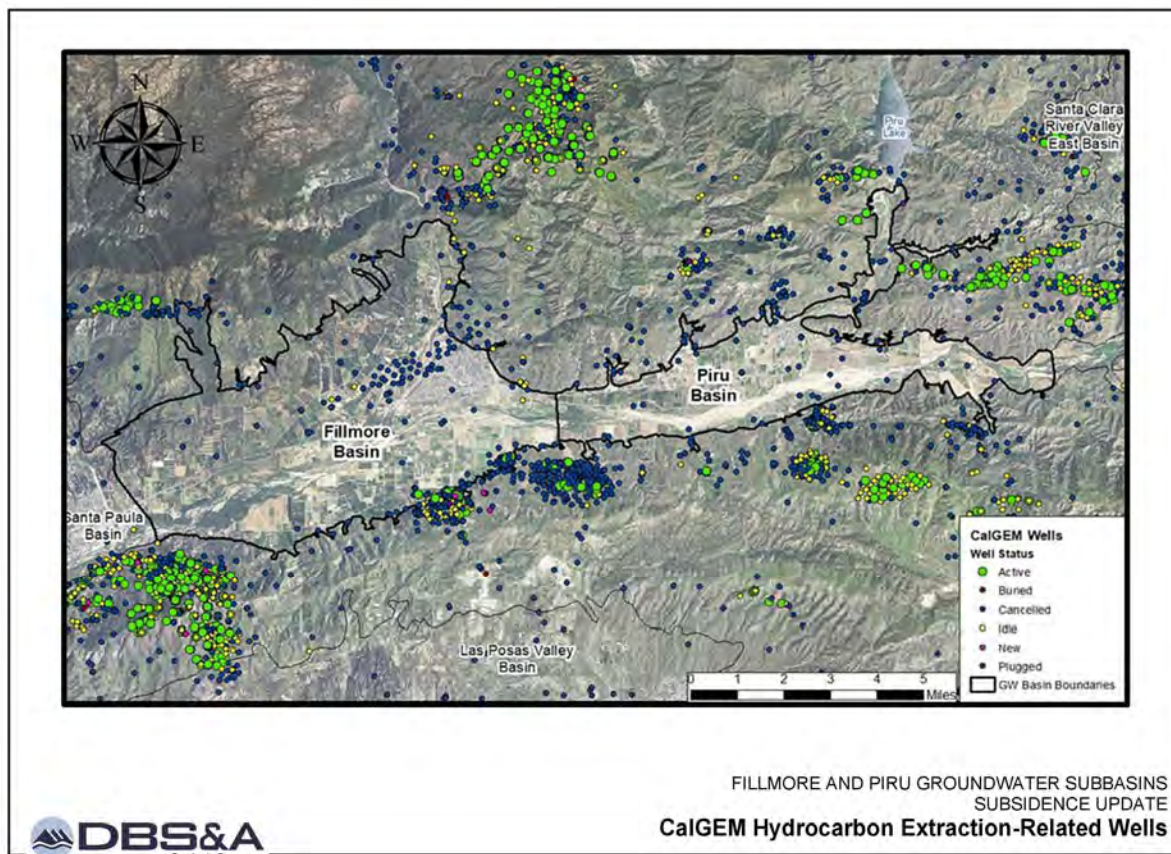


Figure 2-1. Fillmore and Piru subbasins area map showing CalGEM hydrocarbon extraction-related wells

2.2 Basin Tectonics

The subbasins are part of the tectonically active Transverse Ranges, where crustal shortening and rapid uplift rates have occurred for millions of years. Orme (1998) reports a broad range of 0.05 to 9 millimeters per year (mm/yr) of long-term uplift for the coastal Transverse Ranges region. The subbasins consist of varying thicknesses of alluvium underlain primarily by the San Pedro Formation synclinal fold. Studies have estimated maximum dip-displacement values for the north basin-bounding San Cayetano reverse fault and south basin-bounding Oak Ridge fault of 8.8 mm/yr (about 0.03 feet per year [ft/yr]) (Rockwell, 1988) and 12.5 mm/yr (about 0.04 ft/yr) (Yeats, 1988), respectively. Not only is the region's topography vertically affected by gradual long-term tectonic shifts, but the area is prone to earthquakes, which can cause sudden land movements.

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2.3 Technical Approach

The evaluation of subsidence for the Fillmore and Piru subbasins in this document is based on a review of the following lines of evidence:

- Previous investigations and reports
- Geodetic surveys
- InSAR data
- Infrastructure vulnerability to differential subsidence

3. Previous Investigations

Previous investigations evaluated subsidence potential using groundwater models, leveling surveys, global positioning system (GPS), InSAR, and groundwater-level trends. Collectively, these studies indicate small modeled or measured vertical movement and no verified infrastructure impacts. The principal findings and limitations are summarized in Table 3-1.

Table 3-1. Previous Subsidence Evaluations

Study / Investigator	Fillmore Subbasin	Piru Subbasin	Comments
USGS, 1996	Maximum subsidence of 0.03 foot (8 mm, 0.6 mm/yr) near City of Fillmore	maximum subsidence zone up to 0.05 foot (15 mm, ~1 mm/yr) around the Town of Piru	1975-1989 study period; groundwater flow model simulations – no field verification
Hanson et al., 2003	Maximum value of just over 0.1 foot (0.00098 ft/yr) of subsidence	0.25 feet (0.0024 ft/yr) in the eastern portion of Piru Subbasin	1891 to 1993 study period; groundwater flow model simulations – no field verification
Ventura County, 2013 and 2020	Lies within subsidence hazard zone	Lies within subsidence hazard zone	No technical analyses conducted.
DWR, 2014	Low potential	Insufficient data	
DBS&A, 2023 - InSAR	Less than ± 0.05 ft	Generally, less than ± 0.05 foot except during periods of artificial recharge, then up to +0.14 foot of rebound in Piru subbasin	June 2015–Sept 2019 study period

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Study / Investigator	Fillmore Subbasin	Piru Subbasin	Comments
2070 Climate Change Modeling by UWCD	No subsidence anticipated	No subsidence anticipated	1986 to 2096 model time frame

Subsidence susceptibility depends primarily on two factors:

- Hydrostratigraphy, particularly the presence and thickness of fine-grained sediments
- Whether groundwater levels fall, or are projected to fall, below historical lows (i.e., preconsolidation heads) in the future

Both conditions generally must be present before inelastic subsidence can occur. Site-specific subsidence monitoring data (e.g., extensometer or tiltmeter) can be used, if available, to augment the hydrostratigraphic setting and water level datasets and develop a subsidence susceptibility ranking for the subbasins, as summarized in Table 3-2.

Table 3-2. Inelastic Subsidence Potential

Subbasin	Hydro-stratigraphic Setting Susceptibility	Chronic Declines in Groundwater Levels	Geodetic/ Extensometer/ Tiltmeter Evidence of Subsidence	InSAR Evidence of Subsidence	Subsidence Susceptibility Ranking
Fillmore	Low to Moderate	No	No	No	Low
Piru	Low	No	No	No	Low

Source: DBS&A, 2021, Appendix F

The Fillmore subbasin has low to moderate hydrostratigraphic susceptibility because its western portion contains more fine-grained alluvial sediment than its eastern portion. The Piru subbasin has low hydrostratigraphic susceptibility because it is dominated by coarse-grained deposits. When these conditions are considered with groundwater-level, geodetic, and InSAR data, both subbasins receive an overall low subsidence-susceptibility ranking.

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3.1 Groundwater Modeling

Hanson et al. (2003) used a numerical groundwater-flow and subsidence model to estimate historical subsidence in coastal Ventura County from 1891 through 1993. Model-derived subsidence is not a direct field measurement; it is calculated from simulated groundwater-level changes and assumed geomechanical properties, with selected benchmarks on the South Oxnard Plain used for calibration. The model attributed most regional subsidence to the late-1920s drought and increased agricultural pumping after the 1950s. The largest modeled values were approximately 3 feet on the South Oxnard Plain and 5 feet in Las Posas Valley. By comparison, modeled subsidence was just over 0.1 foot in the Fillmore subbasin and just over 0.25 foot in the eastern Piru subbasin over the 1891-1993 simulation period.

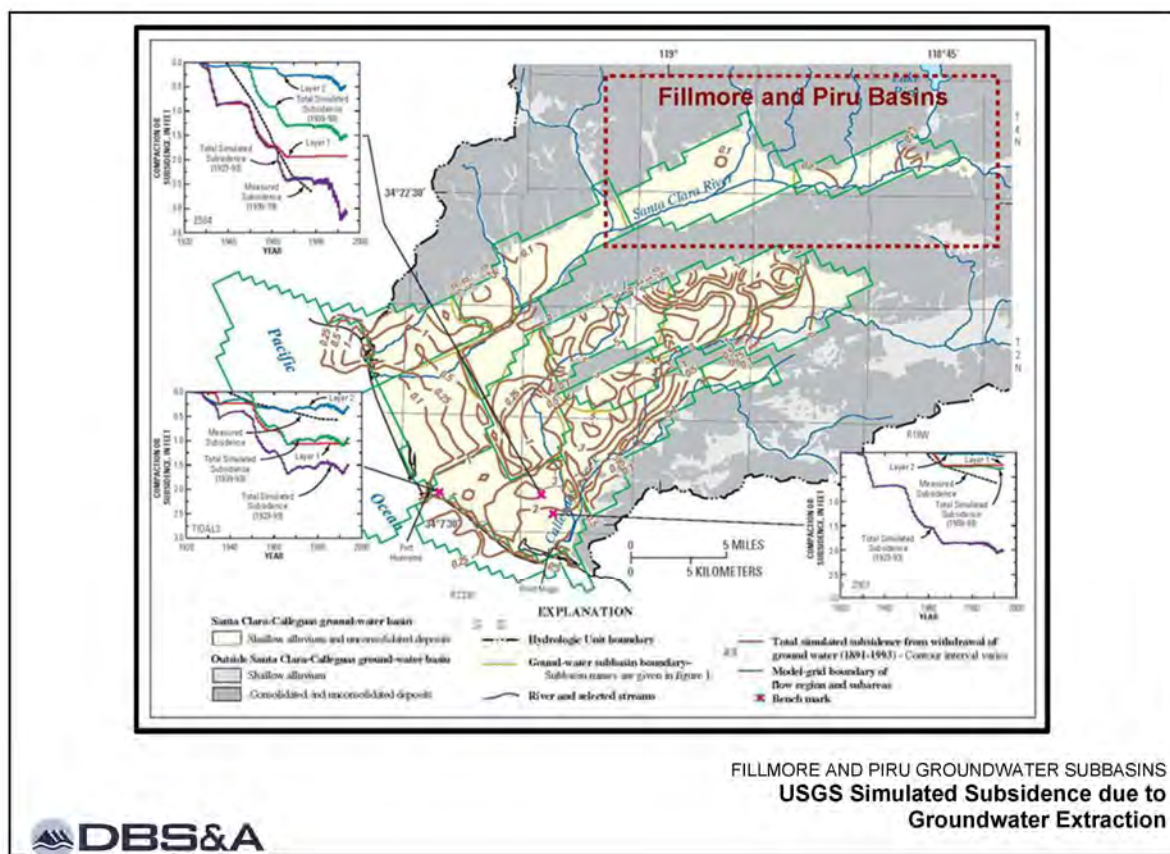


Figure 3-1. Simulated subsidence in the Santa Clara-Calleguas groundwater subbasin due to groundwater withdrawal from 1891 to 1993. Modified from Hanson et al. (2003)

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Borchers (2014) summarizes results from the Hanson et al. (2003) study, and focuses on areas of more significant subsidence (i.e., Oxnard Plain, Las Posas Valley, and South Pleasant Valley subbasins).

3.2 Geodetic Surveys

UNAVCO operates continuous global positioning system (CGPS) stations that measure three-dimensional ground position at frequent intervals. Four stations within 5 miles of the subbasins have records beginning in 1999 or 2000. Because all four stations are installed in bedrock outside the alluvial subbasins, their vertical movement primarily reflects regional tectonic or monument motion rather than compaction of the groundwater basin sediments.

Figure 3-2 shows locations of these CGPS stations, along with UNAVCO time-series graphs displaying measured land displacement relative to the first measurement of each station. Data displayed in the time-series graphs are referenced to the North American tectonic plate (NAM14) reference frame. Outliers with a standard deviation greater than 20 mm (about 0.8 inch) were removed by UNAVCO. Long-term general vertical movement rate trends were determined by applying a line of best fit to each station's entire measured time frame of data. Three of the four CGPS stations surrounding Fillmore subbasin (KBRC, SOMT, and FMVT) are all set in weathered or poorly lithified sedimentary bedrock (UNAVCO) and show a long-term trend of approximately 0.003 mm/yr (0.000009 ft/yr) of downward vertical movement since December 2000. Just south of Lake Piru, CGPS station SFDM set in bedrock (UNAVCO) indicates a linear trend of 0.001 mm/yr (0.000003 ft/yr) of upward vertical movement since 1999. Looking on a smaller timescale, the four stations show similar seasonal upward and downward movement trends.

Following the 1994 Northridge earthquake (magnitude 6.7), USGS (1996) conducted a study to assess and restore geodetic infrastructure affected or damaged by land elevation changes caused by the earthquake. A geophysical model of permanent ground deformation, based on the geodetic infrastructure movement, was developed and benchmarks that differed by ± 1.2 inches (3 centimeters [cm]) from the model were considered anomalous (suggesting needed replacement). The model required non-tectonic deformation (i.e., subsidence due to groundwater withdrawal) to be removed from measured elevation changes to infer deformation solely due to tectonic activity. Therefore, at least three pre-seismic surveys made between 1971 and 1989 were used to subtract the elevation changes from the 1994 measurements. The

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National Geodetic Survey (NGS) conducted leveling surveys along routes in areas affected by the earthquake, including routes cutting through the Fillmore and Piru subbasins (Figure 3-3).

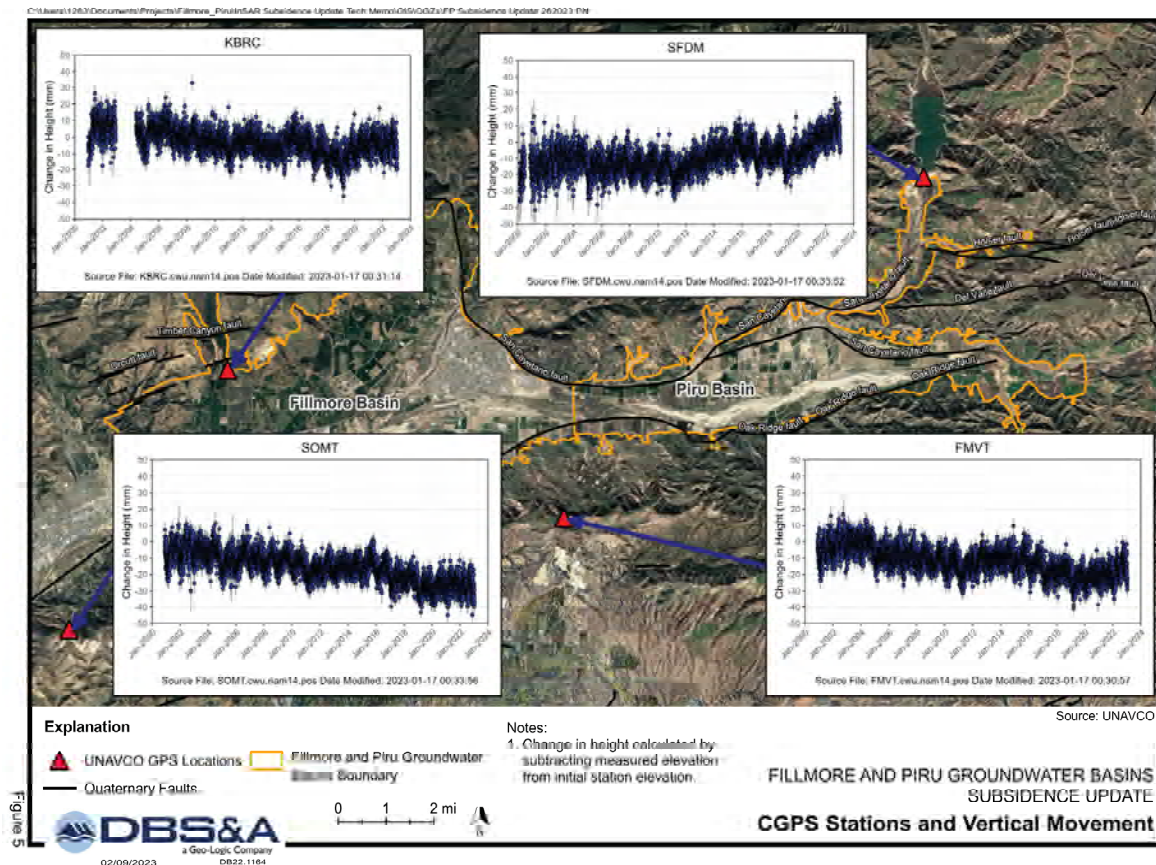


Figure 3-2. Map showing CGPS locations and vertical movement time-series data provided by UNAVCO (DBS&A, 2023)

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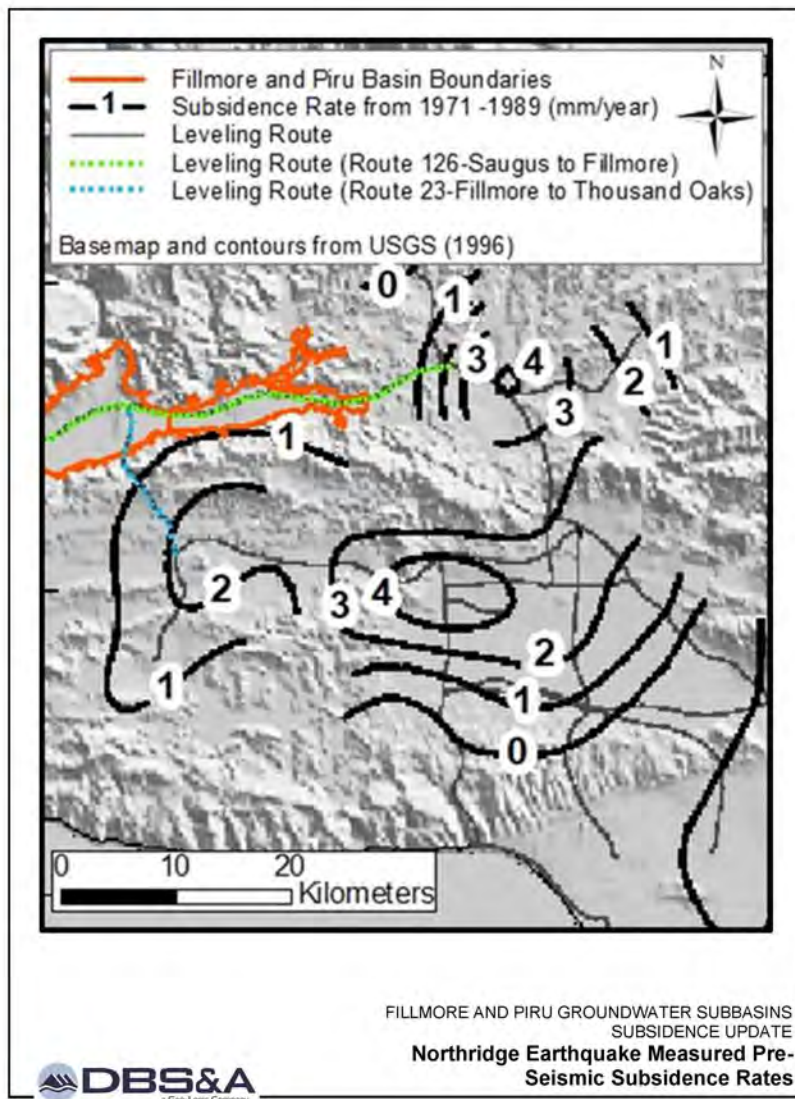


Figure 3-3. USGS (1996) 1994 Northridge Earthquake report NGS leveling routes and contours of measured pre-seismic subsidence rates (mm/yr) from 1971 to 1989

Figure 3-3 includes subsidence rate contours that USGS produced from the 1971 to 1989 pre-seismic surveys covering the Los Angeles Basin. Based on these contours, average subsidence rates in the Fillmore and Piru Subbasins were under 1 mm/yr (0.003 ft/yr) from 1971 to 1989. A comparison of 1975 and 1989 leveling surveys (pre-1994 Northridge earthquake) taken along Route 126 (Los Angeles Avenue) from Saugus to Fillmore determined 15 mm (0.05 foot) of

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cumulative subsidence over the 14-year period, with maximum subsidence of 60 mm (0.2 foot) occurring between the 1975 and 1978 surveys. The area of maximum subsidence was 20 km (12.4 miles) wide and centered around the Town of Piru. The rebound in ground elevation following 1978 could have been due to groundwater recharge or a systematic error in the 1978 survey. A survey along Route 23 (Moorpark Freeway) from Fillmore to Thousand Oaks determined a maximum subsidence of 8 mm (0.03 foot) at Fillmore between 1975 and 1989.

The final modeled coseismic uplift extent related to the 1994 Northridge earthquake is shown in Figure 3-4. Within the subbasins, only the very eastern portion of the Piru subbasin showed tectonic deformation related to the earthquake and fell within the 0 to 10 cm (less than 0.3 foot) zone of the coseismic uplift contours modeled by USGS.

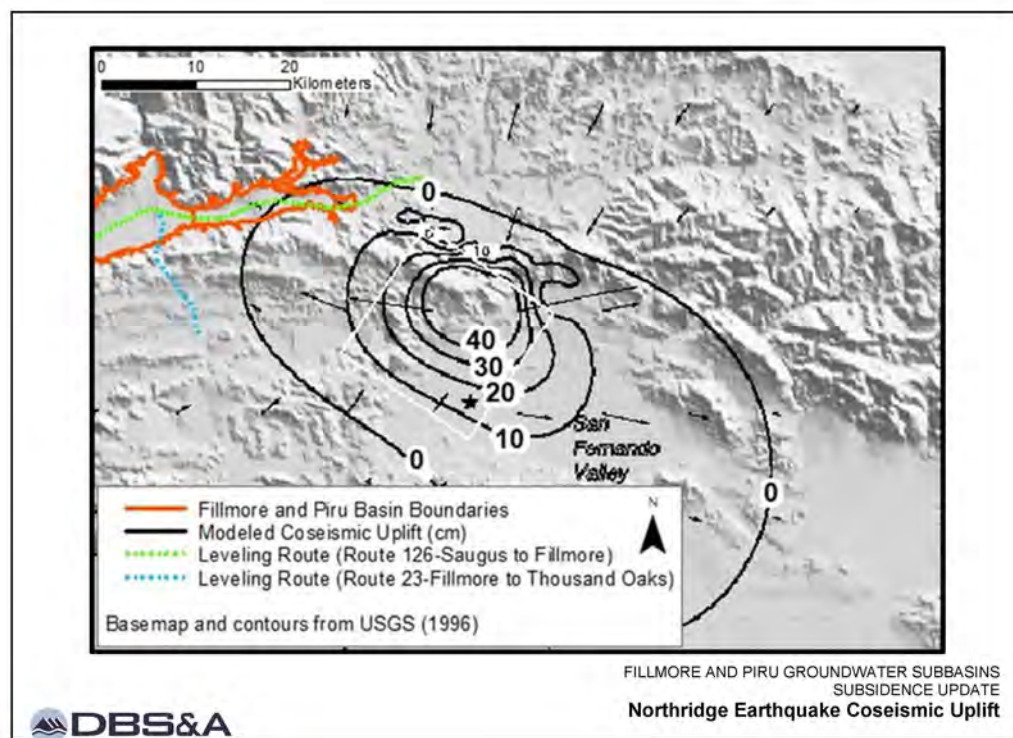


Figure 3-4. USGS (1996) 1994 Northridge Earthquake report modeled coseismic uplift

3.3 Extensometers

There are no known extensometers located in either subbasin (SGMA Data Viewer – Land Subsidence – accessed August 13, 2025).

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3.4 InSAR Data

DBS&A's 2023 evaluation used DWR-provided InSAR data to assess land-surface movement in the Fillmore and Piru subbasins. InSAR measures total surface displacement, including both elastic and inelastic movement. The method does not, by itself, distinguish among groundwater extraction, hydrocarbon production, tectonic activity, or other causes of movement.

Eight points within the subbasins were chosen for vertical displacement time-series analysis based on special geographical characteristics and/or hydrogeological setting (e.g., likelihood of the area having significant thicknesses of fine-grained sediment, presence or absence of rising groundwater elevations, and general depths-to-groundwater). Locations of these points are shown in Figure 3-5 and described as follows:

1. Fillmore-Santa Paula Subbasin Boundary
2. Sespe Uplands
3. Bardsdale
4. City of Fillmore (Pole Creek Fan)
5. Fillmore-Piru Subbasin Boundary
6. Central Piru Subbasin
7. Piru Creek/Santa Clara River Confluence
8. Piru-SCR East Subbasin Boundary

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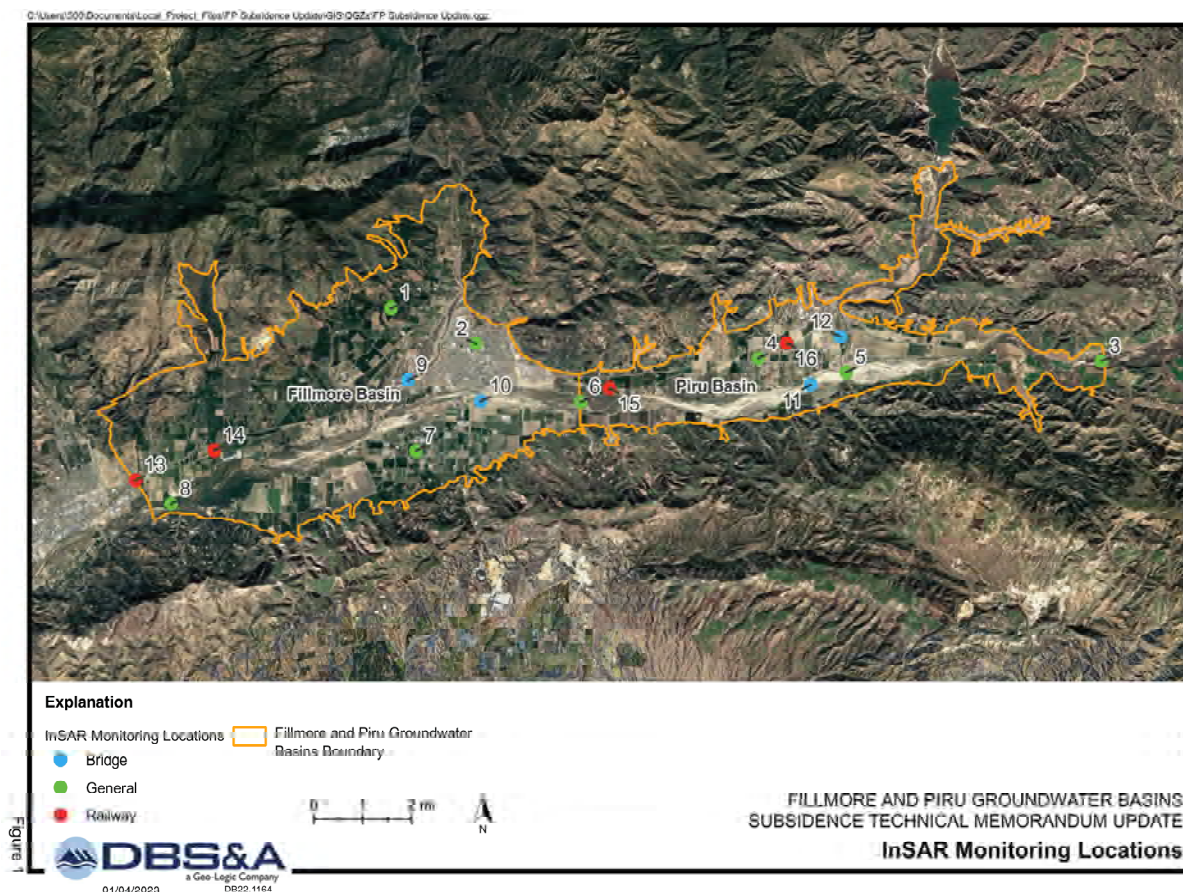


Figure 3-5. InSAR monitoring locations (DBS&A, 2023)

Eight additional points within the subbasin were chosen for vertical displacement time-series analysis at specific infrastructure locations (e.g., railways and bridges), as these locations would be most impacted by subsidence. In addition, these new locations were generally selected to be in close proximity to pumping centers. Infrastructure monitoring locations are shown in Figure 3-5 and described below:

1. Hwy 126 Crossing Sespe Creek
2. Hwy 23 Crossing Santa Clara River
3. Torrey Road Crossing Santa Clara River
4. Hwy 126 Crossing Piru Creek
5. Hwy 126 and Railway Intersection Near Santa Paula

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6. Railway - Fillmore Subbasin
7. Railway - Near Fillmore-Piru Subbasin Boundary
8. Railway - Piru Subbasin

DWR provided monthly InSAR results as cumulative displacement since June 13, 2015 and as moving 12-month displacement. At the selected monitoring locations, most measurements were within the reported ± 0.07 -foot uncertainty range and did not show sustained downward movement. Locations 6, 11, and 16 in central Piru instead showed upward movement during 2020 and 2021, consistent with elastic rebound. No related infrastructure impacts were reported at these locations.

Total observed cumulative subsidence for the Fillmore and Piru subbasins from June 13, 2015 to October 1, 2022 is shown in Figure 3-6. All cumulative subsidence values fell within the InSAR measurement error of ± 0.07 foot; therefore, no significant changes in land-surface elevation have been observed. This is consistent with the interpretation of the InSAR time-series data.

The upward movement in the Piru subbasin was temporally associated with releases from Santa Felicia and Castaic Dams. Locations 6 and 16 reached maximum cumulative upward displacements of approximately 1.5 inches and 1.2 inches, respectively, following large releases in 2019 and 2020. Locations 6, 11, and 16 show similar annual and cumulative displacement patterns.

Because most measurements fall within the reported uncertainty range, the apparent short-term response should be interpreted cautiously. Nevertheless, annual displacement at several Piru locations increases soon after reservoir releases and begins to decline within approximately 2 to 3 months after the releases end.

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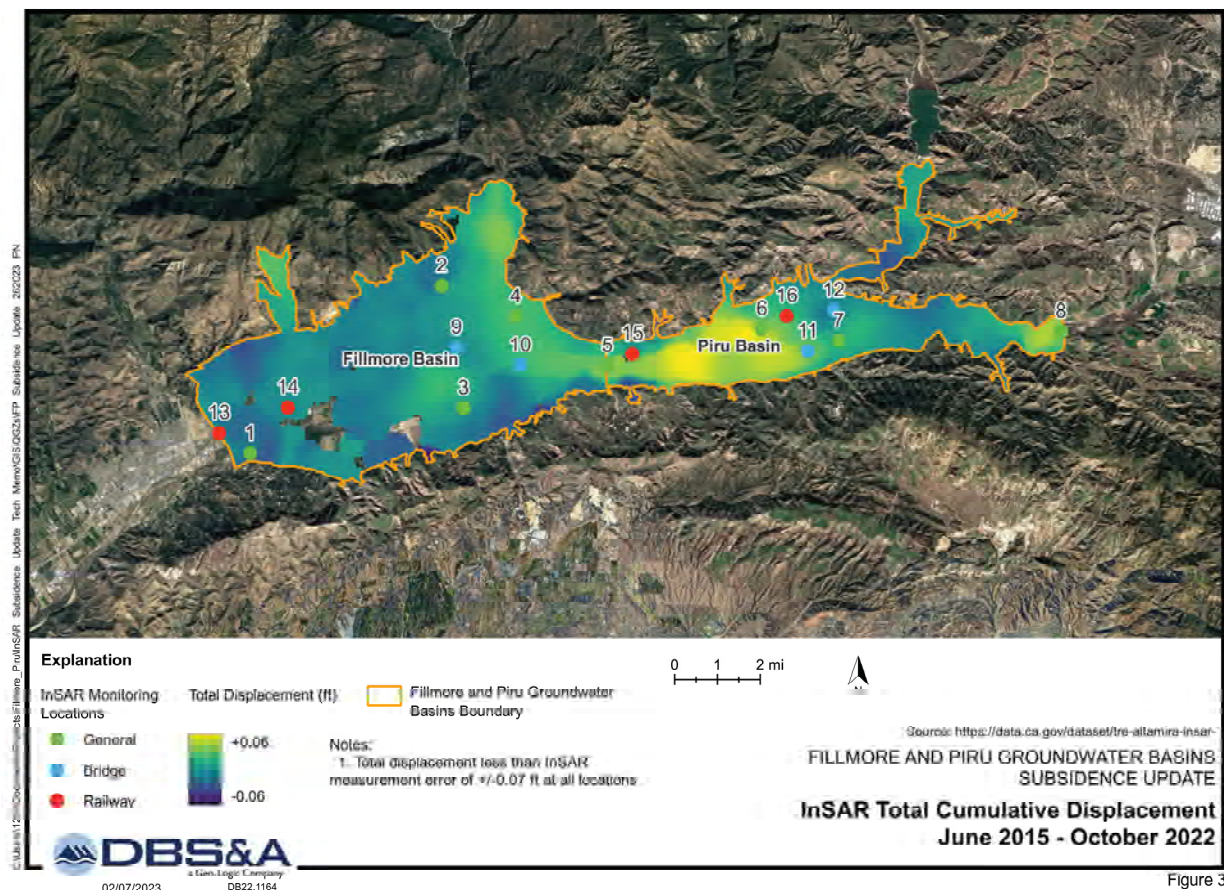


Figure 3

Figure 3-6. InSAR total cumulative displacement (DBS&A, 2023)

3.5 Critical Groundwater Levels (from DBS&A, 2021, Appendix F)

Historical studies describe past conditions but do not, by themselves, establish future risk. This evaluation therefore uses simulated future groundwater levels as a screening tool. Subsidence potential depends on the distribution, thickness, and compressibility of fine-grained sediments, the magnitude and duration of groundwater-level decline, and whether groundwater levels fall below the preconsolidation head. Because the preconsolidation head has not been measured directly, estimated historical low groundwater levels are used as a screening proxy. The United Water Conservation District (UWCD) groundwater-flow model (UWCD, 2021) simulated conditions from 1986 through 2096 under the central-tendency 2070 climate-change scenario.

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Simulated groundwater elevations at selected wells were then compared with estimated historical lows (Figure 3-7).

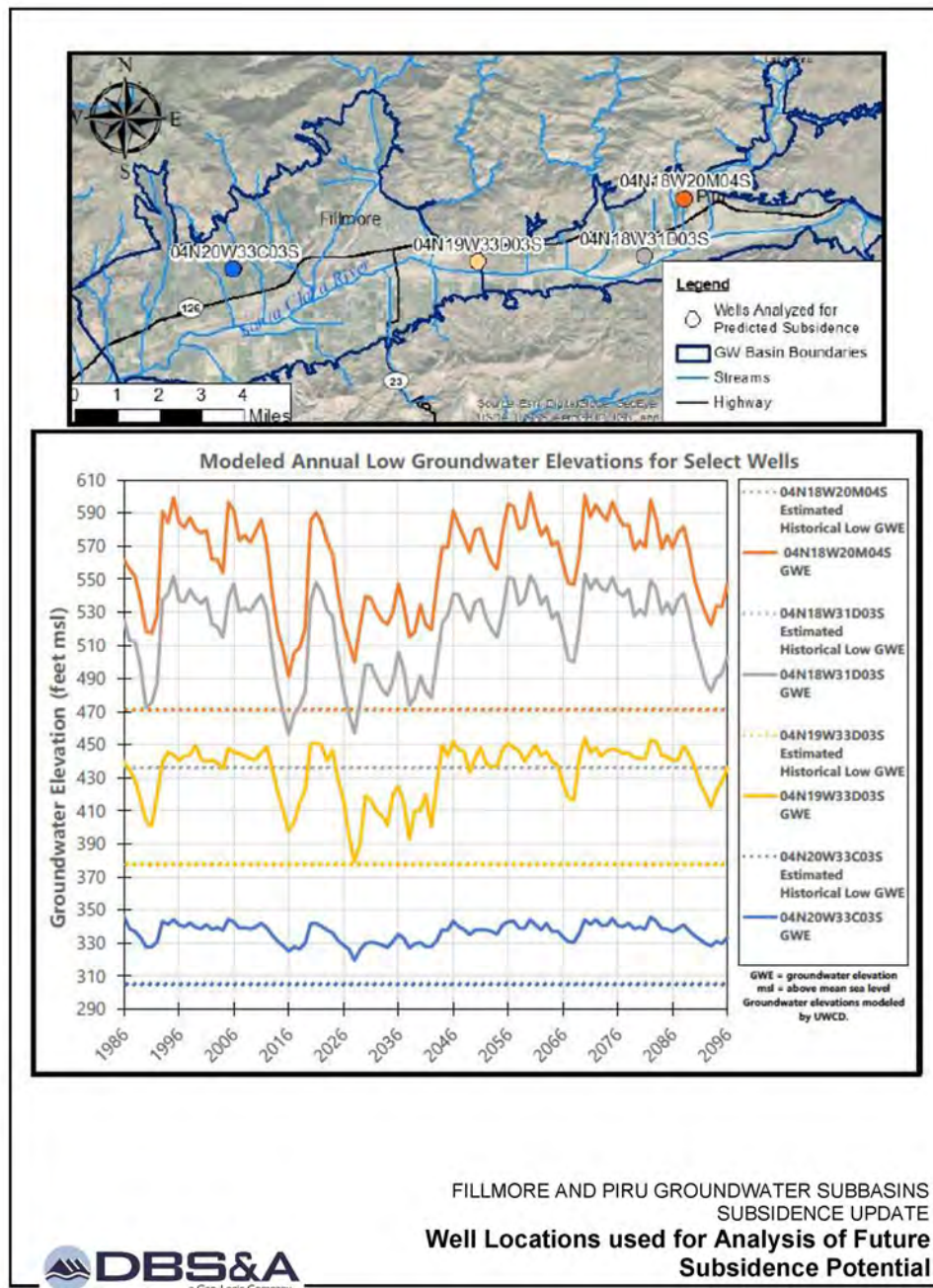


Figure 3-7. Well locations used for analysis of future subsidence potential (DBS&A, 2023)

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Simulated annual low water levels for the four example wells for the available model time frame were used for the evaluation. To account for maximum historical lows anticipated prior to the modeled time frame, the historical low water level was estimated to be 20 feet lower than the modeled 2016 drought water level. This historical low estimate was based on review of wells with long-term water level records (e.g., back to the 1940s), which showed that early drought levels generally measured about 20 feet lower than the measured 2016 drought low water levels.

Comparing the 2070 climate-change simulation with estimated historical lows identifies where future groundwater levels could approach conditions associated with subsidence. At nearly all wells with known construction details, projected future groundwater elevations remain above the estimated historical lows. This result indicates that inelastic subsidence is unlikely in either subbasin under the modeled climate and pumping scenario.

The water levels near the boundary between the Fillmore and Piru subbasins are typically some of the shallowest in the subbasins and the 2070CF modeled water levels are predicted to be less than 10 feet above the estimated historical low in this area. In general, the differences between the estimated historical low water level and the 2070CF modeled low water levels increase to the east and west away from the Fillmore-Piru subbasin boundary.

3.6 Ventura County General Plan

The 2013 Ventura County General Plan Hazards Appendix (Ventura County, 2013) maps a subsidence-hazard zone along the Santa Clara River Valley that includes both subbasins. The zone is based on figures from the 1973 Hazards Appendix and has not been updated with newer geodetic data. The General Plan states that sediment loading and groundwater-level decline could contribute to hydrocompaction and increase flooding potential on lower lands, including the Oxnard Plain. Hydrocompaction and groundwater-extraction subsidence are related but distinct processes. The 2040 General Plan Environmental Impact Report (Ventura County, 2020) similarly identifies the Santa Clara River Valley, Oxnard Plain, and Las Posas Valley as areas with potential subsidence risk.

3.7 California Department of Water Resources

In 2014, California Department of Water Resources (DWR) prepared a document summarizing recent, historical, and estimated future subsidence potential for groundwater subbasins included in DWR Bulletin 118 (DWR, 2014). The purpose of the document was to provide screening-level

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information with respect to subsidence. DWR lists the Fillmore subbasin with *low* potential for future subsidence. The ranking was determined from less than 10 percent of wells with long-term water-level trends (well records longer than 10 years) with current water levels (2008-2014) at or below historical low spring levels and one active continuous GPS monitoring station (see Geodetic Surveys) that showed 0.03 foot of maximum decrease in ground elevation. The Piru subbasin had insufficient data to establish a subsidence ranking.

4. Currently Active Subsidence Evaluation

No active groundwater-related subsidence has been documented in either the Fillmore or Piru subbasin. The GSA and other governmental entities also have not received anecdotal reports of land movement associated with groundwater or other resource extraction.

The Agency monitors the readily available datasets for any indications that subsidence may be occurring or conducive conditions exist within the subbasins. Those datasets include the following:

- Geodetic data: Limited datasets in bedrock areas outside of the basin alluvial fill
- InSAR data: As provided by DWR
- Reservoir releases: Effect of reservoir releases on land surface movement

Additional discussion of the ongoing subsidence monitoring program is presented in Section 6.

4.1 Geodetic Data

Figure 4-1 shows locations of CGPS stations near the Fillmore and Piru subbasins, along with the updated time-series graphs displaying measured land displacement relative to the first measurement of each station. This figure is an updated version from DBS&A (2023). Data displayed in the time-series graphs are referenced to the North American tectonic plate (NAM14) reference frame. Long-term general vertical movement rate trends were determined by applying a line of best fit to each station's entire measured time frame of data.

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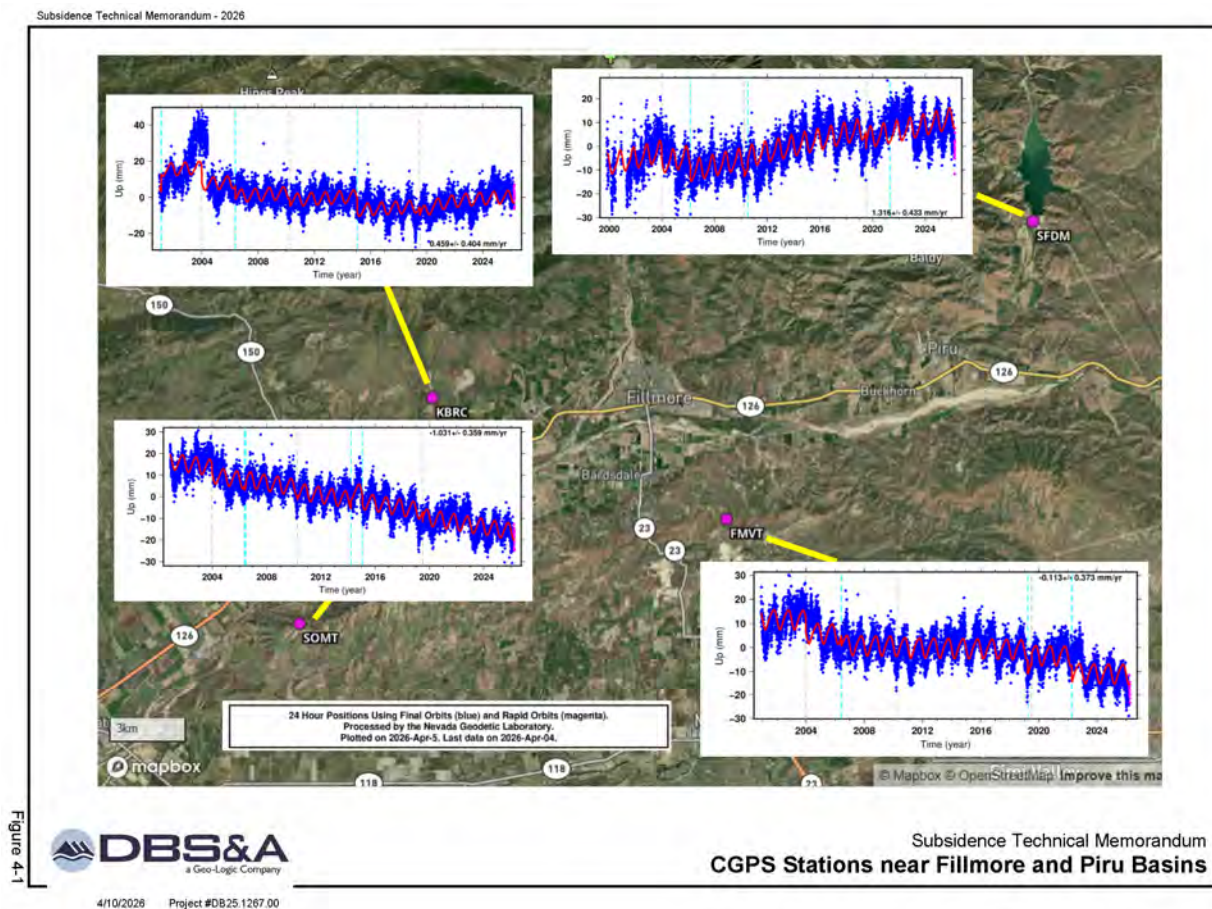


Figure 4-1. CGPS stations near Fillmore and Piru subbasins

Three of the four CGPS stations surrounding Fillmore subbasin (KBRC, SOMT, and FMVT) are all set in weathered or poorly lithified sedimentary bedrock (UNAVCO) with CGPS station SFDM set in bedrock (UNAVCO).

Table 4-1. CGPS Long-Term Vertical Movement

CGPS Station	Vertical Movement Trend
KBRC	0.459 ± 0.404 mm/yr
SOMT	-1.031 ± 0.359 mm/yr
FMVT	-0.113 ± 0.373 mm/yr
SFDM	1.313 ± 0.433 mm/yr

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None of the four trend estimates demonstrates a clear subsidence signal at the monitored bedrock sites.

4.2 InSAR Data

The State of California has sponsored the collection and processing of InSAR data across many basins in California including the Fillmore and Piru subbasins. DWR makes these data available on the California Natural Resources Agency Open Data Portal and the SGMA Data Viewer.

The DBS&A (2023) technical memorandum established the InSAR evaluation approach summarized in Section 3. This section applies the same approach to the updated dataset.

Eight points within the subbasins were chosen for vertical displacement time-series analysis based on special geographical characteristics and/or hydrogeological setting (e.g., likelihood of the area having significant thicknesses of fine-grained sediment, presence or absence of rising groundwater elevations, and general depths-to-groundwater). Locations of these points are shown in Figure 4-2 and described below:

1. Fillmore-Santa Paula Subbasin Boundary
2. Sespe Uplands
3. Bardsdale
4. City of Fillmore (Pole Creek Fan)
5. Fillmore-Piru Subbasin Boundary
6. Central Piru Subbasin
7. Piru Creek/Santa Clara River Confluence
8. Piru-SCR East Subbasin Boundary

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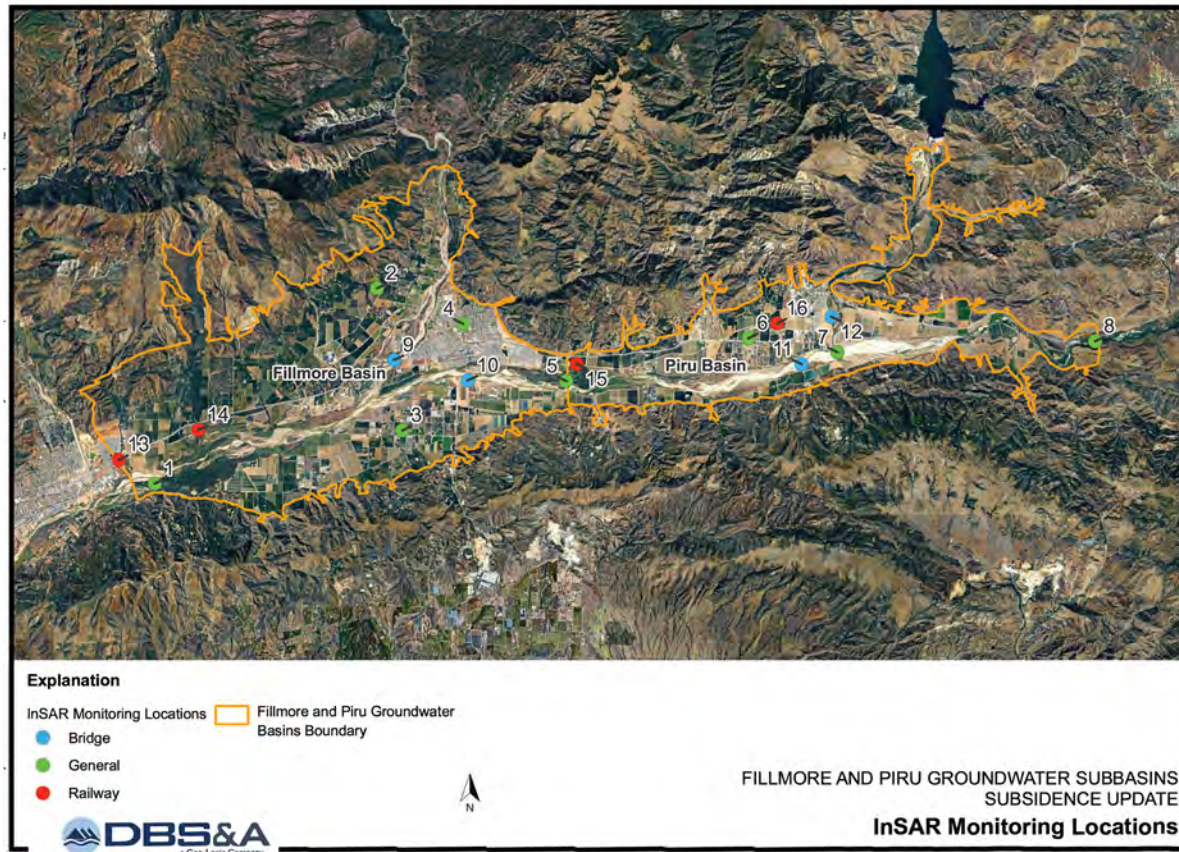


Figure 4-2. InSAR monitoring locations

Eight additional points within the subbasin were chosen for vertical displacement time-series analysis at specific infrastructure locations (e.g., railways and bridges), as these locations would be most impacted by subsidence. In addition, these new locations were generally selected to be in close proximity to pumping centers. Infrastructure monitoring locations are shown in Figure 4-2 and described below:

1. Hwy 126 Crossing Sespe Creek
2. Hwy 23 Crossing Santa Clara River
3. Torrey Road Crossing Santa Clara River
4. Hwy 126 Crossing Piru Creek
5. Hwy 126 and Railway Intersection Near Santa Paula

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6. Railway - Fillmore Subbasin
7. Railway - Near Fillmore-Piru Subbasin Boundary
8. Railway - Piru Subbasin

DWR provides monthly InSAR results as cumulative displacement since June 13, 2015 and as moving 12-month displacement. Figures 4-3 and 4-4 show the selected monitoring locations. Most measured displacement remains within the reported ± 0.07 -foot uncertainty range and does not show sustained downward movement. Locations 6, 11, and 16 in central Piru instead show periods of upward movement consistent with elastic rebound. No related infrastructure impacts have been reported at these locations.

Figure 4-5 shows cumulative vertical displacement in the Fillmore and Piru subbasins from June 13, 2015 through January 2026. The data do not show sustained downward movement beyond 0.07 foot. Several Piru locations show upward movement associated with periods of higher groundwater levels. The record therefore does not indicate ongoing inelastic subsidence.

Upward movement in the Piru subbasin is temporally associated with releases from Santa Felicia and Castaic Dams (Figure 4-6). Locations 6 and 16 reached maximum cumulative upward displacements of approximately 1.5 inches and 1.2 inches, respectively, after large releases in 2019 and 2020. Locations 6, 11, and 16 show similar annual and cumulative displacement patterns.

Because most measurements fall within the reported uncertainty range, the apparent short-term response should be interpreted cautiously. Nevertheless, annual displacement at several Piru locations increases soon after reservoir releases and begins to decline within approximately 2 to 3 months after the releases end (Figure 4-6).

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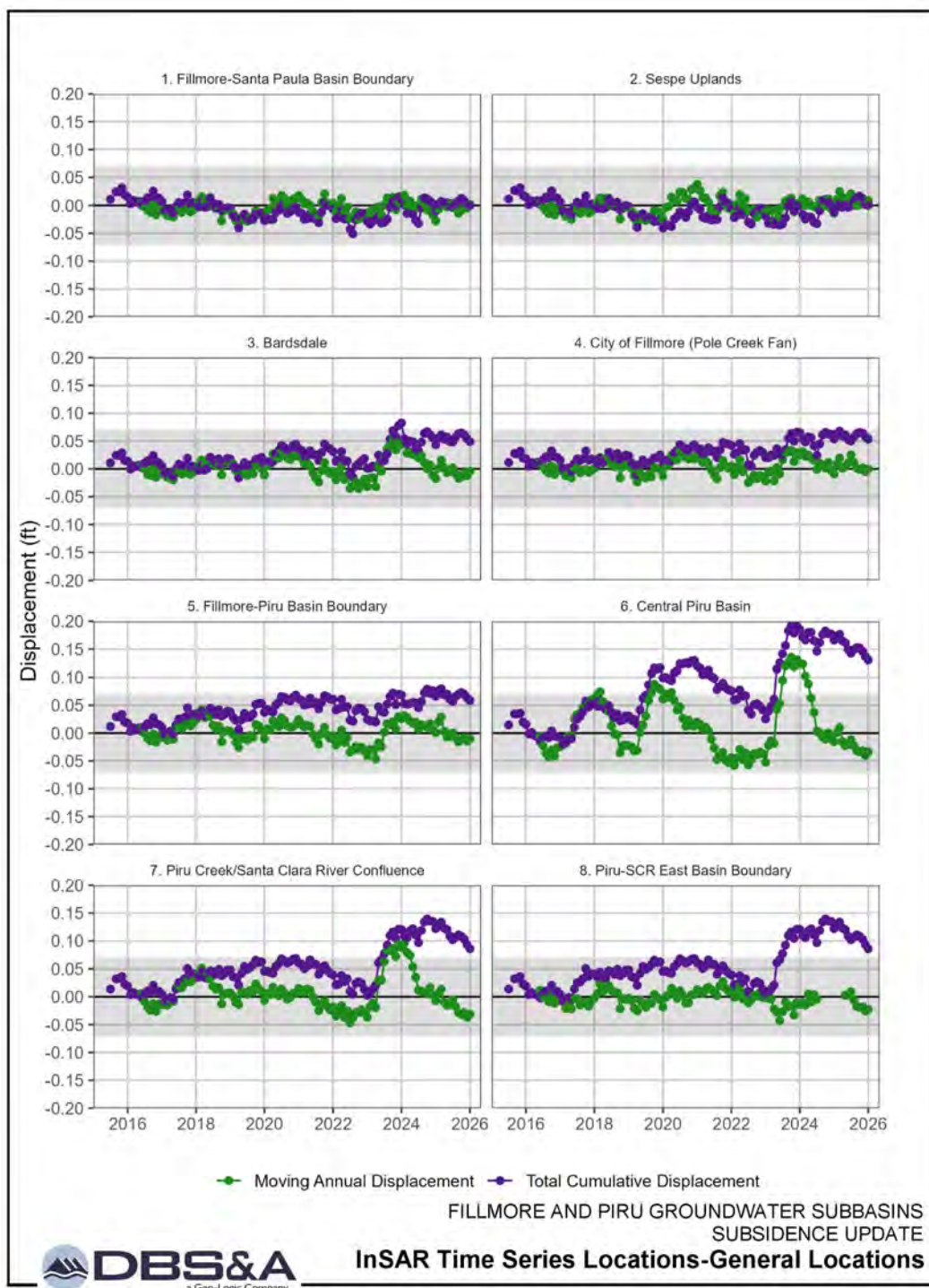


Figure 4-3. InSAR time-series locations, general locations

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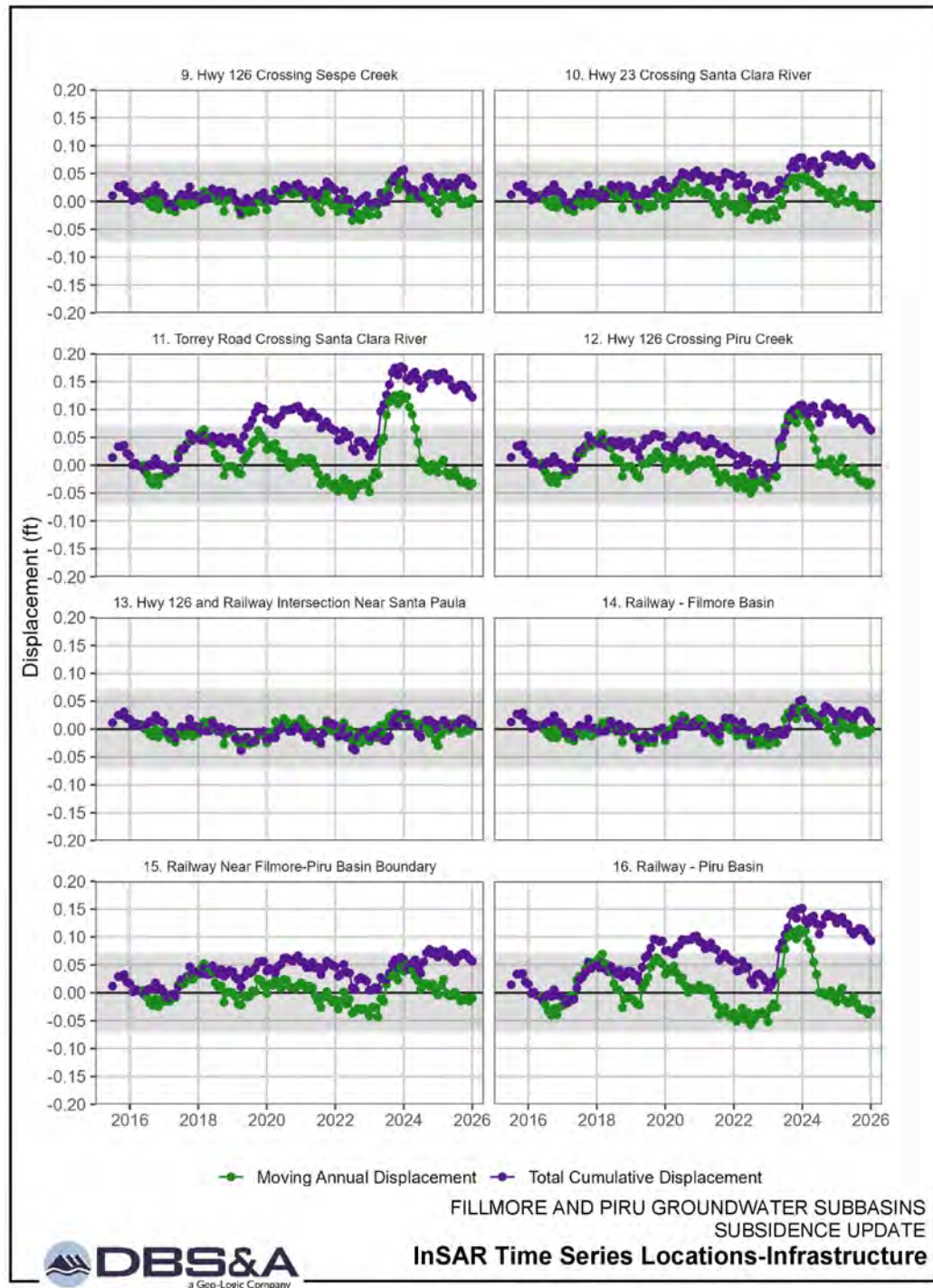


Figure 4-4. InSAR time-series locations, infrastructure

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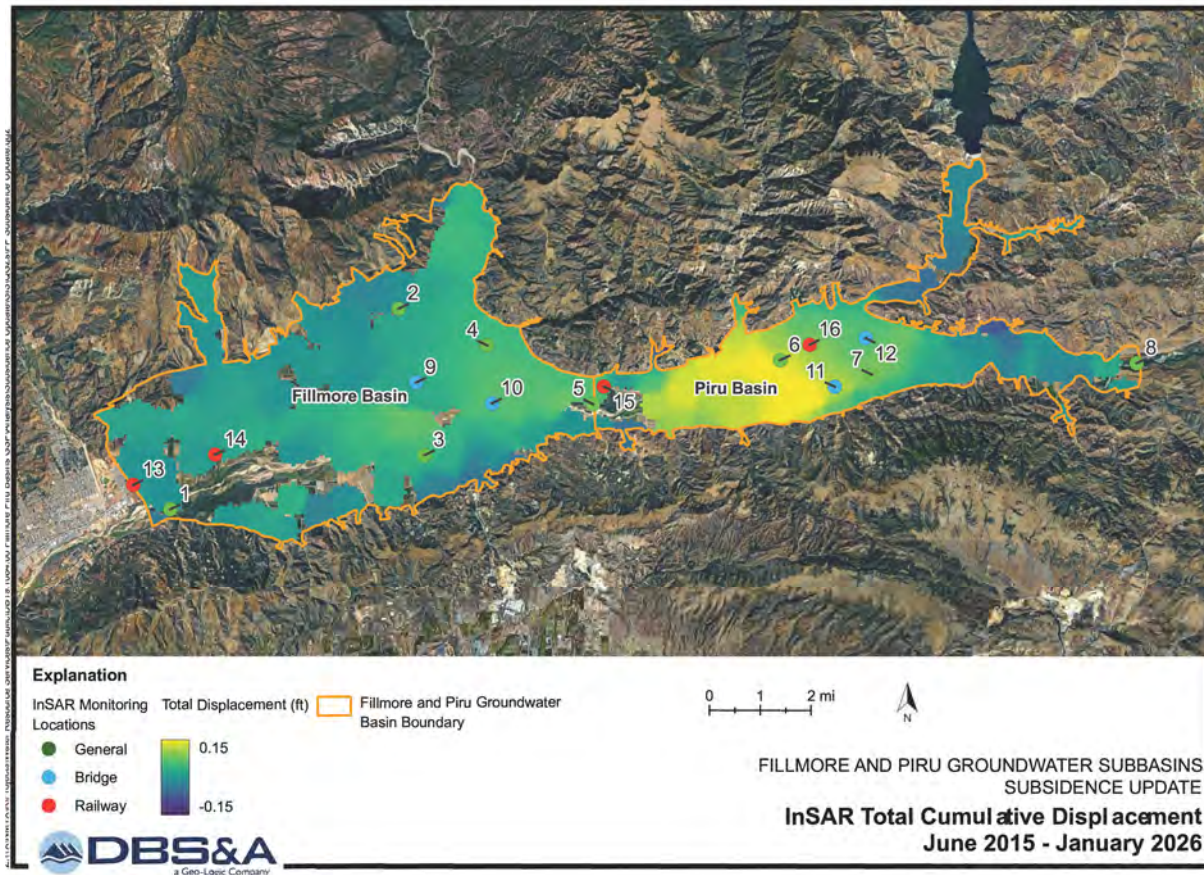


Figure 4-5. InSAR total cumulative displacement

Figures 4-3 and 4-4 show cyclic land-surface movement, with most annual displacement remaining within the ± 0.07 -foot measurement range. The clearest exception is upward movement in the Piru subbasin during periods of elevated groundwater levels, where annual displacement approaches 0.15 foot. The subsequent decline remains above the -0.07 -foot screening level and is consistent with elastic, rather than permanent, deformation.

Reservoir releases from Santa Felicia and Castaic Dams (Table 4-2) produce rapid, observable groundwater-level responses, particularly in the Piru subbasin. Figure 4-6 shows a similar timing in the InSAR record. Land-surface elevation rises during and shortly after the releases, then declines over the following weeks or months as groundwater levels recede. This pattern is consistent with an elastic aquifer response.

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Table 4-2. Reservoir Releases Upstream of Fillmore and Piru Subbasins

Release Origin	startDate	endDate	Release duration, days	Reservoir Volume Released, AF	Estimated Infiltration, AF			Estimated Infiltration, AF			Average Daily Infiltration, AF		
					Castaic Lagoon	Castaic Creek	Castaic Basin	Fillmore	Piru	Other	Fillmore	Piru	Other
Santa Felicia Dam	12/6/2016	12/16/2016	10	970	0	0	0	0	970	0	0.00	97.00	0.00
Castaic Dam	5/17/2017	7/21/2017	65	14,917	0	0	3783	0	11134	0	0.00	171.29	0.00
Santa Felicia Dam	5/29/2017	6/20/2017	22	15,300	0	0	0	2000	11700	1600	90.91	531.82	72.73
Santa Felicia Dam	6/8/2018	7/11/2018	33	1,103	0	0	0	0	1103	0	0.00	33.42	0.00
Castaic Dam	3/12/2019	6/4/2019	84	18,972	495	1127	0	0	17350	0	0.00	206.55	0.00
Santa Felicia Dam	6/3/2019	7/29/2019	56	39,444	0	0	0	5800	11776	21868	103.57	210.29	390.50
Santa Felicia Dam	2/26/2020	3/10/2020	13	7,516	0	0	0	2701	2564	2251	207.77	197.23	173.15
Castaic Dam	4/16/2020	5/22/2020	36	6,800	0	0	0	0	0	6800	0.00	0.00	188.89
Santa Felicia Dam	8/7/2020	11/11/2020	96	33,421	0	0	0	6902	13907	12612	71.90	144.86	131.38
Castaic Dam	3/2/2022	3/19/2022	17	2,711	751	223	0	0	1737	0	0.00	102.18	0.00
Castaic Dam	2/1/2023	2/22/2023	21	10,545	0	0	2,995	0	7001	0	0.00	333.36	0.00
Castaic Dam	4/3/2023	7/19/2023	107	52,483	0	0	0	0	2639	0	0.00	24.67	0.00
Santa Felicia Dam	6/23/2023	12/19/2023	179	61,858	0	0	0	0	16323	0	0.00	91.19	0.00
Castaic Dam	1/10/2024	1/15/2024	5	974	0	0	577	0	397	0	0.00	79.40	0.00
Castaic Dam	3/22/2024	3/28/2024	6	397	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00
Castaic Dam	4/3/2024	4/30/2024	27	1,141	0	0	555	0	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00
Santa Felicia Dam	6/12/2024	7/8/2024	26	6,754	0	0	0	536	2822	0	20.62	108.54	0.00
Santa Felicia Dam	9/10/2024	11/4/2024	55	33,903	0	0	0	1111	8919	0	20.20	162.16	0.00
Castaic Dam	11/1/2024	12/19/2024	48	6,359	0	0	1643	368	4373	0	7.67	91.10	0.00
Castaic Dam	4/15/2025	5/2/2025	17	2,025	0	0	404	0	1621	0	0.00	95.35	0.00
Santa Felicia Dam	9/15/2025	11/2/2025	48	27,450	0	0	0	1361	12208	0	28.35	254.34	0.00

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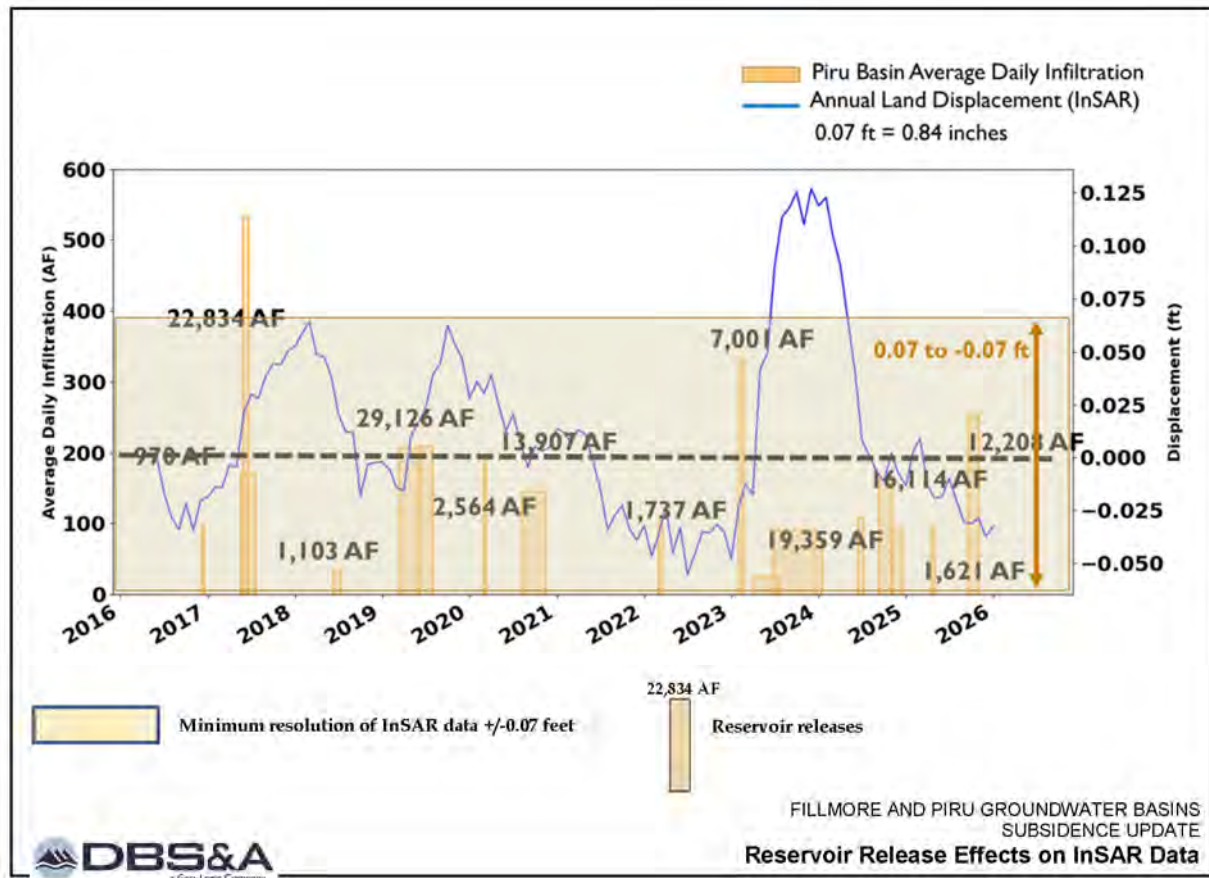


Figure 4-6. InSAR vertical displacement and reservoir releases

5. Sustainable Management Criteria

The revised Sustainable Management Criteria (SMC) framework translates the technical evidence into three SGMA management tools. The measurable objective (MO) describes the desired condition. The minimum threshold (MT) identifies conditions considered significant and unreasonable. Interim milestones (IMs) measure progress. Development of this framework was guided by the following:

- DWR's (2026) final guidance on this topic

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- Explicit recommendations from DWR (2025a [page 42], 2025b [page 40-41]) that “. . . the GSA establish conservative minimum thresholds (e.g., close to InSAR measurement error) to avoid future land subsidence. . .”
- DWR staff's recommendation to set the MT at the InSAR value equivalent to the minimum negative land displacement
- DWR's (2025a and 2025b) recognition that, for both the Fillmore and Piru subbasins, the 2024 GSPs provide sufficient information to show that groundwater pumping has not historically caused land subsidence and that relatively stable groundwater levels make near-term subsidence unlikely

5.1 Significant and Unreasonable Impacts

For these subbasins, significant and unreasonable impacts are evaluated by considering whether differential land movement could damage infrastructure and impair its beneficial use. Agricultural land generally is less sensitive to small vertical movements than roads, bridges, railways, pipelines, wells, and buildings. The MT is therefore designed to identify persistent inelastic movement where vulnerable infrastructure is present.

5.1.1 Potentially Impacted Infrastructure

There are several categories of infrastructure present in the Fillmore and Piru subbasins. Table 5-1 summarizes those types of infrastructure, potential impacts of subsidence, and whether evidence of historical or ongoing subsidence is found in the subbasins. No evidence of impacts due to subsidence has been reported for any infrastructure category.

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**Table 5-1. List of Infrastructure Types and Potential Impacts of Subsidence
(modified from DWR, 2025)**

Infrastructure or Land Use Type	Infrastructure	Infrastructure Type Present in Fillmore or Piru Subbasin	Evidence of Subsidence	Example Potential Impacts of Subsidence
Cities and Communities	- Property drainage - Power systems - Municipal water systems - Sewer systems	Yes	No	- Physical damage - Reduced service reliability - Increased maintenance
Pipelines and Other Utilities	- Natural gas - Water - Underground cables and overhead powerline utilities	Yes	No	- Cracking or joint failure - Overpressurization - Reduced capacity - Pinch-points and un-alignment of transmission poles, towers, and lines
Railroads	- Private rail - High-speed rail	Yes	No	- Track deformation, instability, or loss of use during flooding - Safety hazards
Roads	- Drainage systems - Highways - Bridges	Yes	No	- Surface cracking - Drainage failure - Structural instability - Loss of use due to flooding
Canals	- State canals - Federal canals - Local canals	No	No	- Reduced conveyance, freeboard - Lining damage - Altered slope - Erosion and sedimentation of unlined channels
Flood Control & Drainage	Federal, state, and local flood facilities (e.g., levees, bypasses, and dams)	No	No	- Loss of grade - Structural failure - Reduced flood capacity - Levee overtopping or breach
Pumping Facilities	Domestic, agricultural, and public supply wells	Yes	No	- Casing collapse - Reduced capacity - Operational inefficiencies - Sand and gravel damaging pump bowls

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5.1.2 Undesirable Results

Table 5-1 lists the potential infrastructure impacts of vertical land movement. Their severity can be evaluated using engineering codes, design guidance, and project-specific differential-settlement tolerances. No current or historical subsidence impacts have been documented in either subbasin.

5.1.2.1 California Building Code

The California Building Code (CBC, Title 24, Part 2) does not prescribe specific “inch-per-foot” limits for different structure types. Instead it requires geotechnical and structural design teams to:

- Evaluate expected total and differential settlements in the geotechnical investigation report
- Include those expected settlement values on the construction documents
- Design foundations so that differential settlement is “minimized”
- Note certain very light or non-structural elements that are exempt

The CBC makes the project-specific geotechnical investigation and structural design teams responsible for:

- Quantifying what total and differential settlement they expect
- Calling out those values in the construction documents
- Designing foundations so that “differential settlement is minimized” in a way that is appropriate to the risk category and occupancy

In the absence of general CBC guidance, industry-specific guidelines or standard practice documents are the likely sources of information on subsidence tolerances.

5.1.2.2 Differential Subsidence Tolerances

Infrastructure built on compressible sediments must accommodate some differential settlement. The following sections summarize reported guidance values, in millimeters and inches, for several major infrastructure types:

- Railroads
 - ◇ *Track differential settlement:* California high-speed rail guidelines limit *residual* differential settlement after track installation to $\leq \frac{3}{8}$ inch (≈ 9.5 mm) over a 62-foot chord for non-ballasted (slab) track, and $\leq \frac{3}{4}$ inch (≈ 19 mm) for ballasted track (Caltrans, 2011).

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Residual uniform settlement should be <1.125 inches (ballasted track) and <0.625 inch for non-ballasted track (Caltrans, 2011). If expected settlement exceeds these limits, ground improvement or changing to a viaduct is recommended (Caltrans, 2011). For high-speed Classes 6 through 9, the corresponding 62-foot-chord limit is 1 inch for Classes 6 through 8 and 0.75 inch for Class 9 (FRA, 2026a and 2026b). Additional limits apply over 31- and 124-foot chords. The important qualification is that these are regulatory defect limits, not recommended design or subsidence-monitoring thresholds. The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) specifically expects railroads to correct developing geometry conditions before they reach the applicable limit.

FRA (2026a and 2026b) permits a maximum vertical-profile deviation ranging from 1.25 to 3 inches for conventional Class 1 through Class 5 track, measured at the midpoint of a 62-foot chord. Because these values represent regulatory defect limits, a lower project-specific monitoring or action threshold should be established in consultation with the railroad owner. A value of 1 inch of measured profile deviation should be used as a conservative investigation trigger, not as the definition of track failure.

- ◇ *Track vertical deflection (stiffness):* The American Railway Engineering and Maintenance-of-Way Association (AREMA) (as cited by FRA) recommends that track support deflection under load be between $\frac{1}{8}$ inch and $\frac{1}{4}$ inch (≈ 3 to 6 mm) (AREMA, 2011). Excessive subsidence that softens the track support (deflection $> \frac{1}{4}$ inch) or stiffens it ($< \frac{1}{8}$ inch) can increase stresses and is undesirable.
- Highway Bridges
 - ◇ *Differential settlement between supports:* Caltrans geotechnical practice limits differential footing settlement on bridges to $\frac{1}{2}$ inch (12.7 mm) between adjacent supports for multi-span or diaphragm-abutment bridges, and up to 2 inches (50.8 mm) for single-span bridges with seat abutments (Caltrans, 2021). These are essentially the maximum tolerable differences; beyond ~ 0.5 inch, bridges are evaluated for additional stresses.
 - ◇ *Grade separation design limits:* State standards often express tolerable settlement per span. For example, Washington State guidance limits total settlement to 1 inch over 100 feet and differential to 0.75 inch (19 mm) per 100 feet within a bridge structure (AASHTO, 2018). The Arizona Department of Transportation similarly advises limiting foundation settlement to 0.75 inch (~ 19 mm) per 100 feet of span, with any settlement > 4 inches requiring special approval (AASHTO, 2018). (Equivalently, this is ~ 0.0025 of span length.) In practice, Caltrans/AASHTO design includes a settlement allowance (e.g.,

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if an overpass is predicted to settle >1.0 inch, the vertical clearance is increased accordingly) (Caltrans, 2011 and 2019).

- Freeways
 - ◇ *Pavement and approach slabs:* For freeway embankments and approach slabs, designers use criteria similar to short-span bridges. Caltrans practice for approach slabs (seat abutment) is the same 2-inch (50-mm) limit noted above (Caltrans, 2011 and 2019). More generally, highway agencies aim to keep roadway grade changes very small. For example, Arizona's guidelines (used for interstate/freeway approaches) repeat the 0.75 inch per 100 feet limit from bridge guidance (AASHTO, 2018). Settlements on the order of a few centimeters (tens of mm) over a highway span are considered the threshold of concern; above this, smoothing or repair is needed.
 - ◇ *Ride quality:* Although not a formal "tolerance," AASHTO/Caltrans design standards require smooth vertical alignment. In practice, any differential settlement that produces a bump exceeding about 1 inch over a short distance is usually deemed unacceptable for freeway ride quality (requiring grinding or milling). (By comparison, highway design vertical curves typically accommodate grade changes up to a few percent over tens of meters; subsidence beyond those limits will violate design).
- Hospitals (Essential Facilities)
 - ◇ *Building foundations:* Hospitals (Risk Category IV) must tolerate very small differential settlement. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) guidance (applicable to buildings) states that differential settlement should not usually exceed ½ inch (12.7 mm) in buildings, otherwise cracking and structural damage may occur (USACE, 1990). Essential facilities often assume even tighter performance (essentially near-zero differential movement). In California, hospital design follows Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development (OSHPD) standards, which in turn reference USASCE/CBC settlement criteria (see below). In effect, hospitals are designed so that long-term subsidence induces negligible stress.
- Schools (Occupancy Category II)
 - ◇ *Building foundations:* Schools and normal buildings are generally allowed slightly more movement than hospitals, but still small. The same USACE guideline applies to typical buildings: keep differential settlement <0.5 inch (12.7 mm) (USACE, 1990). Although not necessarily interchangeable, CBC relies on USASCE 7 seismic provisions for deformation

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limits; for example, USASCE 7 Table 12.13-3 implies differential thresholds on the order of 1 percent of span (e.g., ≈ 3 inches for a 25-foot span). In practice, designers aim for differential settlement of a few tens of millimeters at most. (By contrast, total settlement of an entire school may be somewhat larger if uniform and well supported.)

5.2 Minimum Threshold

DWR (2026) recommends setting the subsidence MT as close as reasonably practicable to the measurable limit of the InSAR monitoring method. During basin-specific consultation, DWR staff advised using more than 0.07 foot of downward land-surface movement, the stated InSAR measurement limit, as the MT for both subbasins.

An MT is the quantified condition at which effects become significant and unreasonable. InSAR is useful for screening basin-scale movement, but a decline greater than the stated measurement limit does not, by itself, establish an infrastructure impact. The movement also must be persistent and inelastic and must occur where vulnerable infrastructure is present.

The minimum displacement reliably resolved by InSAR is larger than the differential-settlement tolerance of several infrastructure types (Table 5-2). InSAR therefore cannot serve as the sole predictor of potential damage to those facilities. The proposed minimum threshold combines the InSAR screening value with persistence, cumulative movement, and infrastructure exposure, while recognizing the cyclic elastic movement described in Section 4.2. The MT is defined using the following tiered evaluation process:

1. InSAR data show annual land surface declines greater than the resolution of the technology (-0.07 foot/ -0.84 inch) continuing through the next winter
2. InSAR data show cumulative land surface declines that exceed the differential subsidence tolerances for more than one infrastructure category (Table 5-2) for three consecutive winters
3. Infrastructure (Table 5-2) is located within the land parcels experiencing conditions 1 and 2 above
4. If conditions 1 through 3 are satisfied, then the MT is considered exceeded and impacts are considered significant and unreasonable.

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Table 5-2. InSAR Resolution Compared to Infrastructure Differential Subsidence Tolerances

InSAR resolution	± feet	± inches	± millimeters
	0.07	0.84	21.336
<i>Railroads</i>			
Track differential		0.375	9.525
Ballasted track		0.75	19.05
Vertical deflection		0.25	6.35
<i>Highway Bridges</i>			
Differential settlement- multispans		0.5	12.7
Differential settlement- single span		2	50.8
Grade separation		1	25.4
<i>Freeways</i>			
Approach slabs		2	50.8
Ride quality		1	25.4
<i>Hospitals</i>			
Building foundations		0.5	12.7
<i>Schools</i>			
Building foundations		0.5	12.7
Differential span settlement		3	76.2

5.3 Measurable Objectives

The MO is to maintain the subbasin-wide average long-term vertical land-surface movement within the ± 0.07 -foot InSAR measurement range. This represents no reliably detectable downward movement at the basin scale. Upward movement greater than 0.07 foot that is associated with reservoir releases and subsequent elastic rebound also satisfies the MO.

5.4 Interim Milestones

IMs are used to assess the progress of the GSA in reaching the MO for each subbasin. At this time, the GSA has not established IMs for the following reasons:

- The subbasins currently meet the MO and are expected to continue meeting it.
- The MT has not been exceeded.

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- There is no detectable trend in land surface movement suggesting that MT exceedances are imminent.

6. Subsidence Monitoring Program

The GSA's subsidence monitoring program uses the available InSAR and groundwater-level datasets for each subbasin.

6.1 InSAR Data

The GSA will review the InSAR dataset annually as part of each Annual Report preparation analysis. The report will state whether each subbasin meets the MO and whether the MT has been approached or exceeded.

6.2 Groundwater Levels

If annual InSAR data show more than 0.07 foot of downward land-surface movement, the GSA will review groundwater levels and other potential causes in the affected area. Groundwater levels below the estimated historical lows used as proxies for preconsolidation heads would provide supporting evidence that conditions are conducive to inelastic compaction.

If declining water levels become pronounced in the subbasins and are approaching the historical lows, the Agency will explore the causal factors for the water-level declines. These factors fall into two major categories: groundwater extractions or drought, or a combination of the two. The findings will be documented in the Annual Report.

6.3 Mitigative Actions

MT exceedances will trigger further investigation by the GSA, including coordination with entities that operate infrastructure within the affected area and evaluation of appropriate site-specific monitoring or mitigation measures.

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7. Conclusions

Current evidence does not indicate significant and unreasonable inelastic subsidence caused by groundwater pumping in either subbasin. Historical groundwater model estimates were small and unverified. Pre-1989 leveling averaged less than 1 mm/yr and nearby bedrock CGPS stations show no clear long-term signal of land surface decline. DWR InSAR data for June 2015 through January 2026 show no sustained downward movement beyond 0.07 foot. Alternatively, the InSAR data suggest a cyclic pattern of rising and declining land surface that occurs within the measurement resolution of this technology. After reservoir releases or heavy, prolonged precipitation periods, the upward cyclic movement in central Piru is consistent with elastic reservoir-release response. No related infrastructure damage has been reported.

Future susceptibility also is low. Neither subbasin shows chronic groundwater-level decline, and projected lows under the 2070 climate-change scenario generally remain above estimated historical lows used as proxies for preconsolidation heads. The smallest margin occurs near the subbasin boundary, where some projected lows are less than 10 feet above the proxy.

The proposed SMC provide a conservative detection and response framework. The MO is movement within the effective InSAR range, and the MT adds persistence and infrastructure exposure. Available data indicate that the MO is being achieved, so interim milestones are not warranted. Because InSAR resolution is coarser than some infrastructure tolerances, its appropriate use is as a basin-scale trigger, not as sole evidence of significant and unreasonable impacts.

DBS&A recommends the following next steps:

- Continue annual review of basin-wide and point displacement and comparisons of groundwater levels with estimated historical lows. More than 0.07 foot of annual downward movement should trigger data-quality review and cause assessment, confirmation of persistent inelastic movement, and coordination with infrastructure operators.
- If movement persists or infrastructure may be affected, work with infrastructure operators to add field inspection and site-specific monitoring.
- Document the MO, MT, investigations, and management responses in the Annual Reports.

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Appendix A

Response to Comments



Item No. 4B Motion Item

DATE: September 11, 2026 (for September 17, 2026, meeting)

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Anthony A. Emmert, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Potential Agency Projects for Consideration for Proposition 4 Funding

RECCOMENDATION:

The Board will receive a presentation from Daniel B. Stephens & Associates and staff on potential Agency projects, programs, plans and studies for consideration for potential Proposition 4 funding and provide comments and directions.

DISCUSSION:

The California Department of Water Resources' (DWR) Division of Regional Assistance manages the Sustainable Groundwater Management Grant Program (SGM Program). The purpose of the SGM Program is to provide funding to Groundwater Sustainability Agencies and other entities under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) to promote projects that provide multiple benefits while also improving groundwater supply and quantity. The SGM Program funds the following activities:

- Development and implementation of Groundwater Sustainability Plans
- Fund projects that promote the sustainable use of groundwater
- Educate the public on groundwater sources and uses, and ways to sustainably manage and protect it
- Provide technical assistance for Underrepresented Communities to identify their risks and needs with respect to SGMA compliance
- Research and disseminate information on sustainable groundwater best management practices
- Partner with other California agencies, nonprofit organizations, and other interested parties to ensure that public funds are expended on activities and tasks that best suit the groundwater needs in California

2026 Small GSA and Underrepresented Communities Technical Assistance Grants.

Proposition 4 guided by a 2025 legislative directive is providing funding for the 2026 SGM Grant Program, with \$3.5 million designated for small GSAs (pumping under 10,000 acre-feet per year) and \$6.5 million for Technical Assistance to Underrepresented Communities, California Tribes, and Small Farmers Groundwater Technical Assistance Program. On July 31, 2026, DWR released the 2026 Draft SGM Grant Program Guidelines (copy attached). As pumping in both the Fillmore and Piru

subbasins exceeds 10,000 acre-feet per year, the Agency is not eligible for the funding dedicated to the small GSAs. As both subbasins do contain underrepresented communities, funding may be available for Agency efforts if they line up with the funding priorities. DWR states that funding will largely be used to support GSAs in developing, updating or implementing their GSPs, conducting groundwater monitoring and implementing projects within their GSPs. DWR will prioritize projects that provide meaningful and direct benefits to vulnerable populations, disadvantaged communities, or severely disadvantaged communities.

The Technical Assistance Program's goal is to foster strong working relationships and effective communication between the Underrepresented Communities and their local groundwater sustainability agency responsible for implementing SGMA to ensure that the community's needs, risks, and/or vulnerabilities will be properly identified and addressed in the GSPs. DWR will provide funding in either grant agreements or contracts to technical assistance providers for services to Underrepresented Communities, including:

- Well Mitigation Plan Development and Community Outreach
- Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems Threshold Support
- Small Farm Assistance, Engagement, and Education
- Local Financing Plan Support
- Tribal Support and Engagement.

Agency staff and consultants plan to participate in the upcoming September 22, 2026, DWR workshop, and to provide comments by the September 30, 2026, deadline.

SGM Implementation Grants. Proposition 4 will also provide approximately \$320 million toward the SGM Implementation Grant Program. DWR expects to release the draft guidelines in late September 2026, with comments due in late October or early November 2026. Agency staff and consultants will review the draft guidelines when they are released, provide a report to the Board, and provide an opportunity for the Board and stakeholders to discuss potential Agency projects and programs for consideration. DWR expects to solicit concept proposals in Spring 2027 for an initial screening, and full proposals to be submitted in the Summer/Fall 2027 period.

Additionally, should the Agency desire to apply for SGM grants, staff recommends that the Agency solicit statements of qualifications from qualified grant application specialist consultants.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There are sufficient funds included in the Agency's Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Budget to cover the potential grant applications.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 – 2026 Draft Sustainable Groundwater Management Grant Program
Guidelines

Proposed Motion: Receive a presentation on potential projects, programs, plans and studies for consideration for potential Proposition 4 funding and provide comments and directions.

1st: Director _____ 2nd Director _____

Voice/Roll call vote:

Director Garnica:

Director Jackson:

Director Kimball:

Director Long:

Director Meneghin:

2026
Draft Sustainable
Groundwater
Management Grant
Program
Guidelines

Published: July 2026



FOREWORD

The 2026 Sustainable Groundwater Management Grant Program (Program) Guidelines (2026 Guidelines) contain the general process, procedures, and criteria that the Department of Water Resources (DWR) will use to implement the program. These guidelines will set requirements to promptly allow directed expenditures for Small Groundwater Sustainability Agencies and the Underrepresented Communities Technical Assistance Program. An amendment to the guidelines will follow to provide additional information on grant solicitation for non-directed expenditures.

Mailing List

In addition to the above-referenced website, DWR will distribute information via e-mail. If you are not already on the e-mail distribution list and wish to be placed on it, please visit the following site:

<https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/CNRA/subscriber/new>

Contact Information

For questions about the 2026 Guidelines or other issues, please contact DWR's Financial Assistance Branch at (916) 651-9613 or by e-mail at financialassistance@water.ca.gov.

CONTENTS

TOPIC

PAGE

Table of Contents

I.	INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW.....	5
A.	Funding	5
B.	Program Implementation.....	6
C.	Program Funding Opportunities	6
D.	Program Preferences and Statewide Priorities	6
II.	ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS.....	7
A.	Eligible Grant Applicants	7
B.	Eligible Projects.....	7
C.	Eligibility Criteria	9
D.	Eligible Costs.....	12
E.	Indirect Costs.....	12
III.	GENERAL PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS	14
A.	Conflict of Interest	14
B.	Confidentiality	14
C.	Labor Code Compliance	14
D.	CEQA Compliance.....	15
E.	Monitoring Requirements.....	16
F.	Signage or Acknowledgement of Credit	16
G.	Limited Waiver of Sovereign Immunity	16
H.	Competitive Bidding and Procurement	17
I.	Indemnify and Hold Harmless.....	17
J.	Operations and Maintenance.....	17
K.	Competitive Bidding and Procurement	18
L.	Income Restrictions.....	18
M.	Easements	18
	APPENDIX A – USEFUL WEB LINKS	20
	APPENDIX B – DEFINITIONS	22
	APPENDIX C – UNDERREPRESENTED COMMUNITY DEFINITION.....	25
	APPENDIX D – ADVANCED PAYMENT PROCEDURES	26

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AB	Assembly Bill	GAMA	Groundwater Ambient Monitoring Assessment
Prop 4	California Proposition 4 (2024)	GSA	Groundwater Sustainability Agency
CASGEM	California Statewide Groundwater Elevation Monitoring	GSP	Groundwater Sustainability Plan
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act	GWMP	Groundwater Management Plan
CNRA	California Natural Resources Agency	IRWM	Integrated Regional Water Management
DAC	Disadvantaged Community	SGMA	Sustainable Groundwater Management Act
DWR	Department of Water Resources	SWRCB	State Water Resources Control Board
EO	Executive Order	UWS	Urban Water Suppliers

2026 SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT GRANT PROGRAM GUIDELINES

I. INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW

Throughout California, groundwater basins subject to the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) are in various stages of implementing their Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs). While larger Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) often have a larger base to distribute the costs associated with advancing SGMA implementation, many smaller GSAs, particularly those serving rural and disadvantaged communities, have a much smaller cost distribution network which can create significant challenges. Recognizing the critical role that groundwater plays in California's water supply reliability, the State is committed to supporting small GSAs in achieving sustainable groundwater management for the benefit of all Californians.

To further advance sustainable groundwater management, legislature has directed that \$3.5 million be made available for small GSAs. The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) is introducing the 2026 Sustainable Groundwater Management Grant Program for Small GSAs to distribute this funding.

A. Funding

California Proposition 4 (2024) (Pub. Resources Code, § 90000 et seq.), also known as the Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024, has provided \$386.25 million dollars for projects related to groundwater storage, groundwater banking, groundwater recharge, or instream flow projects that support the conjunctive use of groundwater and surface water supplies. The Budget Act of 2025 (Stats. 2025, ch. 104, § 143) (2025 Budget Act) directed \$3.5 million dollars of the funding for projects supporting sustainable groundwater management by small GSAs. The 2025 Budget Act also appropriated \$6.5 million dollars for the Underrepresented Communities, California Tribes, and Small Farmers Groundwater Technical Assistance Program, also known as the Underrepresented Communities Technical Assistance (URCTA) Program. Up to 7% of this funding is designated for DWR's grant administration costs.

B. Program Implementation

Program implementation will be made via directed expenditures or by solicitation of proposals.

Directed Expenditure

Directed expenditures are specific projects awarded funding at the discretion of the DWR Director outside of a public proposal solicitation process. Directed expenditures must address an interest of the State and must meet Program eligibility criteria.

Proposal Solicitations

Proposal solicitations are common practice for government agencies to make funds available to other public entities to complete projects based on competitive ranking. Proposal solicitations generally work well for suites of smaller-scale projects across multiple geographic regions that support multi-benefit objectives.

C. Program Funding Opportunities

Funding will largely be used to support GSAs in developing, updating, or implementing their Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs), conducting groundwater monitoring and implementing projects within their GSPs.

D. Program Preferences and Statewide Priorities

Water Code Program Preferences

Public Resources Code sections 90050, 90140, and 90150 identify various priorities or considerations that shall be given to proposals and are collectively referred to as the "Program Preferences." The Program Preferences include:

- **Leverage Funds or Produce the Greatest Public Benefit** – Give priority to projects that leverage private, federal, or local funding or produce the greatest public benefit relative to grant funds requested.
- **Benefit Disadvantaged, Severely Disadvantaged, and Vulnerable Populations** – Give priority to projects that provide meaningful and direct benefits to vulnerable populations, disadvantaged communities, or severely disadvantaged communities, consistent with the requirement that at least 40 percent of funds benefit vulnerable populations or disadvantaged communities and at least 10 percent benefit severely disadvantaged communities.

- **Utilize California Conservation Corps** – Give preference to projects whose applications include use of the California Conservation Corps or certified community conservation corps.

These Program Preferences will be taken into consideration during the review process; refer to the applicable PSP for the specific details regarding the application of the Program Preferences.

II. ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

A. Eligible Grant Applicants

Public Resources Code section 90110 identifies the following entities as eligible grant applicants for Proposition 4:

- Public agencies
- 501(c)(3) Non-profit organizations
- Special districts
- Joint Powers Authorities
- Public utilities
- Federally recognized Indian Tribes
- State Indian Tribes listed on the Native American Heritage Commission's Tribal Consultation list
- Mutual water companies

Additionally, the applicant must be a GSA; member agency of GSAs; an entity that represents a GSA(s); or agencies with an alternative to a GSP that are located within eligible medium- and high-priority basins.

See Appendix B for definitions of these terms.

To be part of the proposal as a subrecipient and access grant funding through their relationship with the applicant, subrecipients must meet the definition of Eligible Grant Applicant as described above.

B. Eligible Projects

Eligible projects are those that increase groundwater storage, improve the management and operation of groundwater storage, or are for groundwater banking, and support implementation of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (Part 2.74 (commencing with Section 10720) of Division 6 of the Water Code).

Eligible project types for the SGM grant program must include one or more of the activities listed below. All projects must be consistent with the goals of the GSP or alternative to a GSP. This includes projects that fill in known data gaps and comments received from DWR after review of a submitted GSP or Alternative to a GSP, if received. Detailed information is provided in the individual PSPs.

- Recharge/Conjunctive Use Projects
- Subsidence BMP Implementation Actions
- Addressing DWR Recommended Corrective Actions
- Ag Land Adaptation Projects
- Conveyance Projects
- Other Implementation Projects

Under the 2025 Budget Act, the Program will allocate \$3.5 million to projects that support small GSAs, that pump less than 10,000 acre-feet annually, in meeting their SGMA obligations and building long-term groundwater sustainability.

Within the context of this funding program, a "project" encompasses all activities related to planning, design, engineering, acquisition of real property interests, construction, other associated efforts aimed at implementing a specific action funded by the program, and other efforts that support SGMA compliance or implementation.

Underrepresented Communities Technical Assistance

The goal of the Technical Assistance Program is to foster strong working relationships and effective communication between the Underrepresented Communities and their local groundwater sustainability agency responsible for implementing SGMA to ensure that the community's needs, risks, and/or vulnerabilities will be properly identified and addressed in the GSP(s) or alternative(s) to a GSP. Funding will be provided in either grant agreements or contracts to technical assistance providers for services to Underrepresented Communities. Upon request, technical assistance for Underrepresented Communities will be directed to GSAs and technical assistance providers to assist with the activities including, but not limited to, the following:

- Well Mitigation Plan Development and Community Outreach
- Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems Threshold Support
- Small Farm Assistance, Engagement, and Education

- Local Financing Plan Support
- Tribal Support and Engagement

Assistance will be provided through a DWR contract or directed grant to technical assistance providers who meet eligibility requirements.

C. Eligibility Criteria

This is a general list of eligibility criteria for DWR grant funding opportunities. Funding recipients will be required to certify compliance at the time of award and ongoing compliance with these requirements (as applicable to their agency) throughout the duration of the grant agreement between DWR and a grantee.

California Statewide Groundwater Elevation Monitoring (CASGEM) Compliance

Water Code section 10920 et seq. establishes a groundwater monitoring program designed to monitor and report groundwater elevations in all or part of a basin or sub-basin. Information on the requirements of the CASGEM Program can be found at the link listed in Appendix A. DWR has established high-, medium-, low-, and very low-priority groundwater basins, as well as CASGEM monitoring entities. For those in high- and medium- priority groundwater basins, the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSPs) Regulations require that a GSP monitoring network be capable of collecting, at a minimum, two static groundwater elevation readings per year, representing the seasonal low and seasonal high groundwater conditions in the basin, and submitted to DWR electronically (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 23, §§ 354.34.(c)(1)(B) & 354.40). Additionally, the Water Code requires that agencies report seasonal groundwater elevation data in order to remain eligible for grant funding. Following the submittal of a GSP to DWR, CASGEM monitoring entities are no longer required to report seasonal groundwater elevation readings to the CASGEM operating system, instead GSAs will be responsible for submitting groundwater elevations to the SGMA Monitoring Network Module. For those high- and medium-priority basins that do not meet the groundwater level monitoring reporting requirements of SGMA, a GSA, a grant applicant and/or Subrecipient, will not be eligible for grant funding pursuant to Water Code section 10933.7(a).

Section 10933.7(b), if the entire service area of the grant applicant or the individual project proponent is demonstrated to be a DAC, as defined in Appendix B, the project will be considered eligible for grant funding notwithstanding CASGEM compliance.

Consistency with the Delta Plan

For projects occurring, in whole or in part, within the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta or Suisun Marsh, successful applicants shall engage in early consultation with the Delta Stewardship Council (Council) regarding the Council's regulatory policies that may be potentially applicable to the project and the consistency of the project with the Delta Plan. Any project that is determined to be a "covered action" within the meaning of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Reform Act of 2009 (Delta Reform Act; Water Code, § 85000 et seq.), shall be subject to the filing with the Council of a "Certification of Consistency" that provides detailed findings regarding the project's consistency with the Delta Plan in accordance with the Delta Reform Act and the Council's regulatory policies.

Groundwater Management Compliance

A local agency that does not prepare, adopt, and submit its groundwater [management] plan in accordance with groundwater planning requirements established under Division 6 of the Water Code (Water Code, § 10000 et seq.) is ineligible to apply for grant funds until the plan is prepared and submitted to DWR. The groundwater management plan (GWMP) requirement shall not apply to a water replenishment district formed pursuant to Water Code section 60000 et seq., or to a local agency that serves or has authority to manage an adjudicated groundwater basin.

The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) (Water Code, § 10720 et seq.) changed grant eligibility related to groundwater management compliance. Applicants need to meet SGMA requirements to maintain continuing eligibility. Applicants with groundwater projects must follow specific instructions contained in each PSP on what to submit for groundwater management eligibility as SGMA is implemented.

- SGMA – SGMA (Water Code, § 10720 et seq.) specifies actions for critically over-drafted groundwater basins, high- and medium-priority basins. Groundwater project proponents must demonstrate how their project is consistent with SGMA efforts in the basin.
- Groundwater Management Plan Compliance – The applicant, or the project proponent responsible, must meet one of the following conditions (Water Code, § 10753.7 (b)(1)):
 - Conform to the requirements of an adjudication of water rights in the subject groundwater basin.

- Participate or consent to be subject to a GWMP, basin-wide management plan, or other IRWM program or plan that meets the requirements of Water Code section 10753.7.

Open and Transparent Water Data

Recipients of state funds through grants or contracts for research or projects relating to the improvement of water or ecological data shall, as a condition of the receipt of a grant or contract, adhere to the protocols developed pursuant to subdivision (a) for data sharing, transparency, documentation, and quality control (Water Code, § 12406(b)).

Public Utilities and Mutual Water Companies

A project proposed by a public utility that is regulated by the Public Utilities Commission, or a mutual water company, shall have a clear and definite public purpose and shall benefit the customers of the water system and not the investors.

Stormwater Resource Plans

Water Code section 10563(c) requires the development of a stormwater resource plan and compliance with these provisions to receive grants for stormwater and dry weather runoff capture projects. This requirement does not apply to DACs with a population of 20,000 or less and that is not a co-permittee for a municipal separate stormwater system national pollutant discharge elimination system permit issued to a municipality with a population greater than 20,000.

Surface Water Diversion Reporting Compliance

A diverter of surface water is not eligible for a water grant or loan awarded or administered by the State unless it complies with surface water diversion reporting requirements outlined in Water Code section 5100 et seq.

Urban and Agricultural Water Suppliers Compliance

To be eligible for grant funding under this program:

- Urban water suppliers (UWS) must have a current Urban

Water Management Plan that has been reviewed by DWR and found to have addressed the requirements of the Urban Water Management Planning Act (Water Code, § 10610 et seq.).

- UWS must comply with the State Water Resources Control Board's Water Conservation and Production Reporting requirement. Reports are due on the 28th of each month and can be filed using the reporting tool at:
<https://wbappsrv.waterboards.ca.gov/safer/login>
- Agricultural water suppliers must have a current Agricultural Water Management Plan that has been reviewed by DWR and found to have addressed the requirements of the Agricultural Water Management Planning Act (Water Code, § 10800 et seq.).
- Agricultural and urban water suppliers must comply with the conservation and water use efficiency measures of Water Code, Division 6, Part 2.55 (Water Code, § 10608 et seq.), Sustainable Water Use and Demand Reduction, and associated regulations.

Water Metering Compliance

Any urban water supplier applying for State grant funds for wastewater treatment projects, water use efficiency projects, drinking water treatment projects, or for a permit for a new or expanded water supply, shall demonstrate that they meet the water meter requirements in Water Code section 525 et seq.

D. Eligible Costs

For costs to be eligible for reimbursement, the costs must be consistent with the "reimbursable costs" definition contained in Appendix B. Eligible costs incurred will only be paid in arrears (via reimbursement through invoicing), except as set forth in Appendix D.

E. Indirect Costs

The applicant must state the requested indirect cost rate in its full application and may only select one method for Program consideration. Whichever of the four methods by which indirect costs may be reimbursed are at the sole discretion of the applicant. Food and beverages, fundraising, lobbying and entertainment may not be included as indirect costs. Indirect costs are also called overhead. The

methods and required documentation requirements are:

- At the rate set forth in the applicant's negotiated federal indirect cost rate pursuant to its negotiated cost rate agreement. The applicant must submit a copy of the rate agreement. The rate agreement must be current and effective at the time the application is submitted, and signed by both the applicant and the applicable federal agency.
- The federal de minimus indirect cost rate, which is up to 15%. The applicant may request a rate pursuant to this provision without submitting any information or documentation regarding indirect cost rates.
- At a rate negotiated by the applicant with another state agency within the last five years. The applicant must submit a copy of the rate agreement. The rate agreement should be current and effective at the time the application is submitted. If it is no longer in effect, the applicant will need to certify that the agreement submitted is the most recent version and state the reason(s) that the rate agreement is no longer in effect/was not renewed. The rate agreement, whether current or not, must be signed by both the applicant and the applicable State agency.
- At a rate proposed by the applicant. The applicant may submit an indirect cost rate proposal for consideration by DWR if it does not have an existing indirect cost rate agreement with any federal or state agency. Applicants requesting reimbursement for indirect costs must calculate their indirect cost rate by adding together all of its indirect costs and then calculating the indirect cost rate by dividing total allowable indirect costs by total allowable direct costs. All of the costs and grants/projects involved in this calculation must be documented. Documentation of this indirect cost rate must be maintained for the term of any funding agreement using the indirect cost rate (i.e., three years after final payment under the funding agreement). The applicant will need to submit a letter certifying: (1) the rate being requested; (2) that it was calculated using the method stated above and does not include any ineligible costs (e.g. food, beverages, fundraising, lobbying, or entertainment costs); (3) the records calculating the requested indirect cost rate shall be maintained for the term of any funding agreement executed with DWR. If an applicant is approved for indirect costs, the rate will be a separate line item in the funding agreement's budget and will be stated as a specific dollar amount. Any cost that is billed as a direct cost may NOT be included in

indirect/overhead.

Any increases in funding will increase the indirect cost dollar amount at the same rate as the original award. Funds may not be “shifted” from other line items into the indirect costs line item of the budget. During the life of the grant, the grantee’s indirect cost rate will remain the same, regardless of any changes in a grantee’s indirect cost rate agreement(s) with other entities or a change in the federal de minimus rate.

Any indirect costs incurred by a funding recipient’s partners, contractors, subcontractors, consultants, etc. shall be deducted from the funding recipient’s indirect cost allocation set forth in the funding agreement’s budget line item for indirect costs. Any indirect costs incurred by a funding recipient’s partners, contractors, subcontractors, consultants, etc. will NOT be considered direct costs for purposes of reimbursement under the funding agreement. Any such indirect costs will be rejected and not be considered eligible costs.

III. GENERAL PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

A. Conflict of Interest

All participants are subject to State and federal conflict of interest laws. Failure to comply with these laws, including business and financial disclosure provisions, will result in the application being rejected and any subsequent grant agreement being declared void. Other legal action may also be taken.

Before submitting an application, applicants are urged to seek legal counsel regarding conflict-of-interest requirements. Applicable statutes include, but are not limited to, Government Code section 1090 and Public Resources Code sections 10410 and 10411.

B. Confidentiality

Applicants should note that by submitting an application they are waiving their rights to the confidentiality of that application. All proposals, as well as all project materials maintained by the State are subject to disclosure pursuant to the California Public Records Act (Gov. Code, § 7920.000 et seq.). All applications will be public documents.

C. Labor Code Compliance

All grantees are bound by the provisions of the Labor Code regarding

prevailing wages and shall monitor all contracts subject to reimbursement from any agreement with the State to ensure that the prevailing wage provisions of the Labor Code are being met. Current Department of Industrial Relations (DIR) requirements may be found at: <http://www.dir.ca.gov/lcp.asp>. For more information, please refer to DIR's Public Works Manual at: <http://www.dir.ca.gov/dlse/PWManualCombined.pdf>. Before submitting an application, applicants are urged to consult with their legal counsel regarding Labor Code compliance. DWR will not advise applicants on Labor Code compliance. The grantee will also affirm that it is aware of the provisions of Section 3700 of the Labor Code, which require every employer to be insured against liability for workers' compensation or to undertake self-insurance.

D. CEQA Compliance

All activities funded pursuant to the Program must comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Pub. Resources Code, § 21000 et seq.). Any work that is subject to CEQA and funded under a grant agreement shall not proceed until documents that satisfy the CEQA process are received by DWR and DWR has completed its CEQA compliance. Alternatively, the grantee shall notify DWR if they believe their activities will not be considered a project under CEQA or if their activities qualify for a CEQA exemption. DWR must ensure the adequacy of the CEQA documents or CEQA exemption before it can provide funding; therefore, early coordination between the lead agency and DWR during the preparation of the CEQA documents will help expedite DWR's review and approval process.

If CEQA compliance by the grantee or lead agency is not complete at the time a funding agreement is executed by the parties, once DWR has considered the environmental documents, it may decide to require changes, alterations, or other mitigation to the project or to not fund the project. Should the State decide not to fund the project, the funding agreement shall be terminated. Any work subject to CEQA that proceeds prior to DWR's review and approval process being completed will not be reimbursed and the amount will be reduced from the award amount.

DWR recognizes the need for consultation regarding projects that affect California tribal communities. As such, the lead agency is required to consult with federally recognized Tribes and non-federally recognized Native American Tribes listed on the California Tribal Consultation List maintained by the Native American Heritage Commission pursuant to the procedures set forth in Public Resources Code section 21080.3.1. That section requires the CEQA lead agency to consider project effects on Tribal cultural resources and to conduct

consultation with California Native American Tribes.

E. Monitoring Requirements

Water quality monitoring data shall be collected and reported to the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) in a manner that is compatible and consistent with surface water monitoring data systems or groundwater monitoring data systems administered by the State Water Board. See Appendix A for web links to California Environmental Data Exchange Network and the Groundwater Ambient Monitoring and Assessment (GAMA) Program.

Projects that collect watershed monitoring data shall collect and report the data in a manner consistent with the Department of Conservation's statewide watershed monitoring program.

If a project's work plan contains groundwater water quality monitoring, groundwater quality monitoring data shall be submitted to the State for inclusion in the State Water Board's Groundwater Ambient Monitoring and Assessment (GAMA) Program. The groundwater quality monitoring sites should also be identified for the respective basin in the Department's SGMA Portal as an existing site and linked to the GAMA Program site URL. For instructions on how to add existing sites or for general questions, grant applicants can review the SGMA Portal GSP Reporting System User Manual available at: https://sgma.water.ca.gov/portal/resources/data/GSP_Reporting_System_Manual.pdf.

Information on the GAMA Program can be obtained at the website listed in Appendix A. Projects that collect watershed monitoring data shall collect and report the data in a manner consistent with the Department of Conservation's Statewide watershed monitoring program.

F. Signage or Acknowledgement of Credit

To the extent practicable, a project supported by funds made available through this Program will include signage or other relevant forms of acknowledgement informing the public that the project received funds from the Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024.

G. Limited Waiver of Sovereign Immunity

DWR acknowledges federally recognized Tribes are protected by the doctrine of sovereign immunity. All funding agreements where the

recipient is a federally recognized Tribe shall require a limited waiver of sovereign immunity to be adopted prior to execution of the funding agreement.

H. Competitive Bidding and Procurement

All contracts with other entities for the acquisition of goods, services, and construction of public works with funds provided by the State to grantees and LPSs must be in writing and shall comply with all applicable laws and regulations regarding the securing of competitive bids and undertaking competitive negotiations. If a grantee or LPS does not have a written policy to award contracts through a competitive bidding or sole source process, Department of General Services' State Contracting Manual rules must be followed and are available at:

<https://www.dgs.ca.gov/OLS/Resources/Page-Content/Office-of-Legal-Services-Resources-List-Folder/State-Contracting>.

Applicants with questions regarding competitive bidding requirements should be directed to their counsel. DWR will not advise applicants on competitive bidding requirements.

I. Indemnify and Hold Harmless

As part of the funding agreement, the grantee shall indemnify and hold harmless the State, its officers, agents, and employees from any and all liability from any claims and damages (including inverse condemnation) arising from the planning, design, construction, repair, replacement, rehabilitation, maintenance, and operation of the project, and any breach of the funding agreement.

J. Operations and Maintenance

The Grantee shall maintain and operate the facility and structures constructed or improved as part of the project throughout the useful life of the project (minimum 15 years post construction), consistent with the purposes for which this grant was made.

The Grantee assumes all operations and maintenance costs of the facilities and structures; DWR shall not be liable for any cost of such maintenance, management, or operation. Operation costs include direct costs incurred for material and labor needed for operations, utilities, insurance, and similar expenses. Maintenance costs include ordinary repairs and replacements of a recurring

nature necessary to prolong the life of capital assets and basic structures, and the expenditure of funds necessary to replace or reconstruct capital assets or basic structures.

K. Competitive Bidding and Procurement

A Grantee's contracts with other entities for the acquisition of goods and services and construction of public works with funds provided by the State must be in writing and shall comply with all applicable laws and regulations regarding the securing of competitive bids and undertaking competitive negotiations. If a Grantee does not have a written policy to award contracts through a competitive bidding or sole source process, the Department of General Services' State Contracting Manual rules must be followed and are available

at: <http://www.dgs.ca.gov/ols/Resources/StateContractManual.aspx>
<https://www.dgs.ca.gov/OLS/Resources/Page-Content/Office-of-Legal-Services-Resources-List-Folder/State-Contracting>. Applicants with questions regarding competitive bidding requirements should be directed to their counsel. DWR will not advise applicants on competitive bidding requirements.

L. Income Restrictions

Any capital asset acquired or constructed in any part with grant funds may not be used to generate income of any kind. This includes but is not limited to, revenue derived from leases, rentals or any other fee-based use of the asset. The grantee shall agree that any refunds, rebates, credits, or other amounts (including any interest) accruing to or received by the grantee pursuant to public funding shall be paid by the grantee to the State, to the extent that they are properly allocable to costs for which the grantee has been reimbursed by the State pursuant to a grant agreement.

M. Easements

Grantees will prepare and execute a title restriction, conservation easement, or other legal instrument that adequately describes and protects the project improvements funded through the grant award for the subject property in perpetuity, as approved by the State. The easement or other title restriction must be in the first position, ahead of any recorded mortgage or lien on the property unless this requirement is waived by the State.

Where the Grantee acquires an easement under this Agreement, the Grantee agrees to monitor and enforce the terms of the

easement, unless the easement is subsequently transferred to another land management or conservation organization or entity with State permission, at which time monitoring and enforcement responsibilities will transfer to the new easement owner. Failure to record a title restriction or easement acceptable to the State prior to Project construction may result in termination of the Agreement and require the repayment of all grant funds disbursed to be repaid to the State.

APPENDIX A – USEFUL WEB LINKS

Department of Water Resources (DWR)

Homepage:	http://www.water.ca.gov/
IRWM Grant Program:	https://water.ca.gov/Work-With-Us/Grants-And-Loans/IRWM-Grant-Programs
Financial Assistance Programs:	https://water.ca.gov/Work-With-Us/Grants-And-Loans
DAC and EDA Mapping Tools & Data:	https://water.ca.gov/Work-With-Us/Grants-And-Loans/Mapping-Tools
2016 IRWM Plan Update Status; Plan Standards Review Tool:	https://water.ca.gov/Work-With-Us/Grants-And-Loans/IRWM-Grant-Programs/Plan-Review-Process
California Water Resilience Portfolio:	https://resources.ca.gov/Initiatives/Building-Water-Resilience/portfolio
Water Use and Efficiency Branch:	https://water.ca.gov/Programs/Water-Use-And-Efficiency
Urban Water Management Plans:	https://water.ca.gov/Programs/Water-Use-And-Efficiency/Urban-Water-Use-Efficiency/Urban-Water-Management-Plans
Agricultural Water Management Plans:	https://water.ca.gov/Programs/Water-Use-And-Efficiency/Agricultural-Water-Use-Efficiency
General Groundwater Management:	https://water.ca.gov/Programs/Groundwater-Management
Climate Change Website:	https://water.ca.gov/Programs/All-Programs/Climate-Change-Program
SGMA website:	https://water.ca.gov/Programs/Groundwater-Management/SGMA-Groundwater-Management
CASGEM Program:	https://water.ca.gov/Programs/Groundwater-Management/Groundwater-Elevation-Monitoring--CASGEM

State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board)

Homepage:	http://www.waterboards.ca.gov
Stormwater Resource Plan Guidance:	http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/grants_loans/swgp/docs/prop1/swrp_finalguidelines_dec2015.pdf
California Environmental Data Exchange Network:	https://resources.ca.gov/Initiatives/Building-Water-Resilience/portfolio http://www.ceden.org/
Impaired Water Bodies:	https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/rwqcb5/water_issues/tmdl/impaired_waters_list/
Groundwater Ambient Monitoring and Assessment:	http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/gama

Regional Water Quality Control Plans (Basin Plans)

All Regions:	https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/plans_policies/
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California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA)

Homepage: <http://www.resources.ca.gov/>

Climate Bond (Proposition 4)
Disadvantaged and Severely
Disadvantaged Communities Map:

<https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/aa723fdf521a44c9a428f1a46cd38a09>

Governor's Office for Land Use and Climate Innovation

Homepage: <http://www.lci.ca.gov/>

Vulnerable Communities Platform
(VCP):

<https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/652c6def7040429bafef23c38966f8f73>

CEQA

California State Clearinghouse
Handbook:

http://opr.ca.gov/docs/SCH_Handbook_2012.pdf

Climate Change Information

Climate Change Handbook:

<https://water.ca.gov/-/media/DWR-Website/Web-Pages/Work-With->

California Climate Change Portal:

<http://www.climatechange.ca.gov/>

AB 32 Scoping Plan:

<http://www.arb.ca.gov/cc/scopingplan/scopingplan.htm>

Cal-Adapt:

<http://cal-adapt.org/>

Department of Industrial Relations

Labor Compliance Programs:

<http://www.dir.ca.gov/lcp.asp>

DIR's Public Works Manual:

<http://www.dir.ca.gov/dlse/PWManualCombined.pdf>

APPENDIX B – DEFINITIONS

Acquisition – obtaining an interest in real property including easements, leases, water, water rights, or interest in water obtained for the purposes of instream flows and development rights.

Agricultural Water Supplier – a water supplier, either publicly or privately owned, that provides water to 10,000 or more irrigated acres, excluding the acreage that receives recycled water; also includes a supplier or contractor for water, regardless of the basis of right, that distributes or sells water for ultimate resale to customers (Water Code, § 10608.12(a)).

Applicant – the entity that is formally submitting a grant application. This is the same entity that would enter into an agreement with the State should the grant application be funded.

Application – the electronic or hard copy submission to DWR that requests grant funding for a proposal that the applicant intends to implement.

Disadvantaged Community (DAC) – A community with a median household income of less than 80 percent of the area average or less than 80 percent of the statewide median household income consistent with Public Resources Code section 90100(d).

Grantee – a grant recipient that is responsible for the administration of the grant agreement.

Integrated Regional Water Management – Integrated Regional Water Management is a collaborative effort to identify and implement water management solutions on a regional scale that increase regional self-reliance, reduce conflict, and manage water to concurrently achieve social, environmental, and economic objectives.

IRWM Plan – a comprehensive plan for a defined geographic area, the specific development, content, and adoption of which shall satisfy requirements developed pursuant to this part. At a minimum, an Integrated Regional Water Management Plan describes the major water-related objectives and conflicts within a region, considers a broad variety of resource management strategies, identifies the appropriate mix of water demand and supply management alternatives, water quality protections, and environmental stewardship actions to provide long-term, reliable, and high-quality water supply and protect the environment, and identifies disadvantaged communities in the region and takes the water-related needs of those communities into consideration. (Water Code, §10530 et seq.)

Subrecipient – the sponsor of an individual project contained within the grant agreement.

Long-term – means for a period of not less than 20 years.

Mutual Water Company – a private corporation or association organized for the purposes of delivering water to its stockholders and members at cost, including use of works for conserving, treating, and reclaiming water (Public Utilities Code, §§ 2725-2729).

Public Agency – any state agency or department, special district, joint powers authority, city, county, city and county, or other political subdivision of the State.

Public Utility – as defined in Public Utilities Code section 216.

Reimbursable Costs – costs that may be repaid by state grant. Reimbursable costs may include the reasonable costs of engineering, design, land and easement, legal fees, travel and per diem, preparation of environmental documentation, environmental mitigation, and project implementation including directly related administrative costs.

Costs that are not reimbursable with grant funding include, but are not limited to:

- a. Costs for preparing and filing a grant application
- b. Operation and maintenance costs, including post construction project performance and monitoring costs
- c. Purchase of equipment not an integral part of the project
- d. Establishing a reserve fund
- e. Purchase of water supplies
- f. Applying for and replacement of existing funding sources for ongoing programs
- g. Purchase of land in excess of the minimum required acreage necessary to operate as an integral part of the project, as set forth and detailed by engineering and feasibility studies or acquisition of land by eminent domain
- h. Mitigation for environmental impacts not resulting from implementation of the project funded by this program
- i. Any costs associated with fundraising or lobbying efforts which include financial campaigns, solicitation of gifts and bequests, and similar expenses incurred to raise capital or to obtain contributions for the project or any other effort. Any food, beverages, and entertainment costs.
- j. Costs incurred as part of any necessary response and cleanup activities required under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act; Resource Conservation and Recovery Act; Hazardous Substances Account Act; or other applicable law.

Resilience - the capacity of any entity—an individual, a community, an organization, or a natural system—to prepare for disruptions, to recover from shocks and stresses, and to adapt and grow from a disruptive experience. Adaptation actions contribute to resilience, which is a desired outcome or state of being.

Small Disadvantaged Community – for the purposes of Water Code section 10545, a small, disadvantaged community shall mean a Disadvantaged Community that also has a yearlong population of no more than 10,000 persons.

Severely Disadvantaged Community (SDAC) – is a community with a median household income of less than 60% of the Statewide average consistent with Public Resources Code section 90100(j).

Travel and Per Diem Costs - Travel includes the reasonable and necessary costs of transportation, subsistence, and other associated costs incurred by personnel during the term of this Funding Agreement. Any reimbursement for necessary travel and per diem shall be at rates not to exceed those set by the California Department of Human Resources. These rates may be

found at: <https://www.calhr.ca.gov/employees/pages/travel-reimbursements.aspx>.

Reimbursement will be at the State travel and per diem amounts that are current as of the date costs are incurred. No travel outside the State of California shall be reimbursed unless prior written authorization is obtained from the State

Underrepresented Community – SDAC, DAC, Vulnerable Populations, Tribes, and more, will collectively be referred to as an Underrepresented Community. Refer to Appendix C for more information.

Urban Water Supplier – supplier, either publicly or privately owned, that provides water for municipal purposes, either directly or indirectly, to more than 3,000 customers or supplying more than 3,000 acre-feet of water annually (Water Code, § 10617)

Vulnerable Population – A subgroup of a population within a region or community that faces a disproportionately heightened risk or increased sensitivity to impacts from climate change and that lacks adequate resources to cope with, adapt to, or recover from such impacts consistent with Public Resources Code section 90100(o).

APPENDIX C – UNDERREPRESENTED COMMUNITY DEFINITION

An Underrepresented Community is defined as:

A DAC or SDAC; Vulnerable Populations, Tribal Lands/Tribes; California Communities Environmental Health Screening Tool (CalEnviroScreen 3.0 or 4.0) Classified DACs (Environmentally Disadvantaged Communities or EnvDACs)*; and Fringe Communities**.

*CalEPA (through the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA)) developed a mapping tool that assesses environmental, health, and socioeconomic indicators to produce a score for each census tract in the State. A link to this tool can be found in the Foreword. Each tract receives a Pollution Burden scores (Exposures and Environmental Effects) and a Population Characteristics score (Sensitive Populations and Socioeconomic Factors). The average Pollution Burden and Population Characteristics scores are multiplied together to produce an overall CalEnviroScreen score. CalEPA designates the top 25% scoring census tracts as EnvDACs. Census tracts that score the highest 5% of Pollution Burden scores, but do not have an overall CalEnviroScreen score because of unreliable socioeconomic or health data, are also designated as DACs (found to be 22 census tracts in the 2018 CalEnviroScreen version 3.0 or the 2022 CalEnviroScreen version 4.0).

**A Fringe Community are those communities that do not meet the established DAC, SDAC, and EDA definitions, but can show that they score in the top 30% of either the Pollution Burden or Population Characteristics score.

APPENDIX D – ADVANCED PAYMENT PROCEDURES

Advance payments under State funding agreements are prohibited unless authorized by statute. Under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Program, advance payments may be permitted for flood control projects and projects that restore habitat for threatened and endangered species under state or federal law. Below are the procedures by which an entity may apply for and receive advance pay of their award from the Department. Please be aware that access to and the use of advance payment is a privilege and not a right. As a recipient of advance payment, you have a fiduciary duty to the people of the State.

Application Process

Upon approval of the final award, the Department shall notify the awardee in writing of its award and the opportunity to apply for advance payment. The Notice of Award shall include an advance payment form. The awardee shall have up to 90 calendar days from the date of the Notice of Award to return the form and provide all applicable backup documentation. If the awardee fails to return all completed forms and backup documentation within 90 calendar days, **the awardee has forfeited the right to request advance payment for its award**. If documents are incomplete or inadequate, the Department shall reach out as soon as it is aware of the issue to notify the awardee of the issue. Failure of the awardee to respond to Department requests for clarification or further documentation shall result in a denial of the request for advance payment. The Department will notify the awardee within 90 calendar days of receipt of a **complete** advance payment request on its final decision. The Department's final decision is not appealable.

An awardee's application for advance pay must include its most recent financial documents that include sufficient detail to enable the Department to determine the financial and institutional capacity of the awardee, the details of the use of any authorized advance payment, and to determine the risk being taken by the Department on behalf of the taxpayers and/or bond holders providing the funds. Failure to provide adequate documentation shall result in the awardee being deemed ineligible for advance payment. To apply for advance payment, the awardee must:

- Submit a statement of need explaining its need for advance payment. The awardee must submit the most recent three years of verifiable documentation supporting its claim. These may include:
 - Most recent audited financial statements.
 - Revenue and cost statements.
 - Other financial statements, including bank statements.
 - Tax returns.
- Submit a statement explaining the awardee's ability to manage the approved project and its finances. The awardee must submit verifiable documentation supporting its claim. These may include:
 - Audit reports or other financial reviews completed within the last three years.
 - List of its other projects (current and past) including scope, duration, and funding partners.
 - Organization chart of employees responsible for approved project.
- Submit a detailed work plan, budget, and schedule showing how the advance payment will be used. These will need to break down activities and corresponding expenditures

on a quarterly basis.

- For habitat restoration projects, if not previously identified in the awardee's application, the awardee will need to list which threatened and/or endangered species under the federal Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C. § 1531, et seq.) or California Endangered Species Act (Fish & G. Code, § 2050 et seq.), for which the project is providing habitat.
- For non-profit (private) awardees, demonstrate its good standing as a tax-exempt organization.
- For non-profit (private) awardees, submit verification that all advanced State funds provided shall be deposited into a separate federally insured bank account that either tracks interest earned, or is non-interest-bearing, as required by the Department.

Some of these documents (e.g., detailed work plan, budget, and schedule) may have been included in your initial application for funding. It is not necessary to resubmit these documents, but if there have been changes since the initial application, please document those changes when submitting your request for advance payment.

Approval Process

Once the Department has received a **complete** application for advance payment, it shall inform the awardee within 90 calendar days of its decision. The final decision will be in writing and will either be a denial or approval of the request. **This decision is not appealable.**

If the awardee's request is denied, the awardee may request the reason(s) for denial from the Department. If the awardee's request is approved, the awardee will be notified of the amount approved and the conditions of approval. The maximum amount that may be awarded is 25% of the full award amount or the project's reasonable needs based on an immediate six-month planning period, whichever is the lesser amount. The project's immediate six-month need will be based on the awardee's submissions during the application process.

The notification shall also state the frequency of the accountability and progress reports to be submitted, the timeline by which advance payment funds are to be spent, and any other restrictions deemed necessary by the Department. Accountability report and progress report templates shall be provided to the awardee. The awardee must respond within fourteen calendar days accepting the terms of the advance payment; failure to notify the Department within fourteen calendar days shall be considered as the awardee's refusal to accept the advance payment terms, and the awardee shall no longer be eligible for advance payment. Be aware that although advance payment has been authorized, no disbursement of funds can occur until a funding agreement incorporating the terms and conditions of the advance payment's use has been executed.

Use of Advance Payment

Advance payment funds may be used for any eligible project costs as set forth in your funding agreement and its work plan except for the purchase of real property or interests in real property. Those expenses must use the existing State process whereby the real property purchase price (plus escrow fees) is deposited into a qualified escrow account after State review of Department of Water Resources and/or Department of General Services-approved appraisals. The "purchase" only includes the amount deposited into a qualified

escrow account or costs associated with obtaining financing. This does not include those items necessary and directly related to the due diligence for acquisition of real property or interests in real property (e.g., appraisals, environmental assessments, legal fees, surveys, recording fees, etc.); these may be paid for with advance payment funds.

During any period in which a funding recipient is using advance payment, it shall submit an accountability report and a progress report to its grant manager for review and approval. These reports must be submitted on the time schedule set forth in the funding agreement but shall be no less frequently than once per quarter (i.e., every three months). If a funding recipient is late in submitting any of its required reports, it is grounds for termination of its privilege to continue using advance payment on its existing project and any potential future projects that may receive funding from the Department. Accountability Report and Progress Report templates shall be provided to each funding recipient.

Accountability reports are intended to demonstrate the proper use of the State's fiscal resources. Accountability reports must include:

- All supporting documentation of funds spent (e.g., receipts, invoices, etc.).
- Any updates to the project's projected spending plan for the next three months, six months and for the remainder of the project's implementation period.
- If applicable, a statement that the funds have been deposited and use of advance payment funds were withdrawn from a federally insured, non-interest-bearing account and is separate from other funding sources.
- If applicable, documentation of interest earned during the reporting period. Any interest earned shall be considered part of the funding award and shall be used towards the project.

Progress reports are intended to demonstrate the proper implementation of the project. Progress reports must include:

- Actions taken by the funding recipient on the project.
- A statement of milestones achieved, and problems encountered on the project.
- A statement of whether the project is on schedule.
- If the project is not on schedule, the reasons for the delay and proposed remedy(-ies), and an updated schedule.

Request for Further Advance Payments

Once the initial authorized advance payment has been spent by the funding recipient, further advance payments may be allowed. Further use of advance payments by a funding recipient may only be granted if there was prudent use of the initial advance payment, adherence to all corresponding requirements (e.g., timely submission of deliverables and reports), and compliance with all requirements in the funding agreement, and it is permitted by statute. Further advance payments may be requested in writing up to 90 days in advance of the anticipated exhaustion of the initial amount advanced. However, unless requested by the Department or if there has been a change in circumstances, no additional documentation need be submitted. Further advance payments shall only be permitted in the amount of a project's reasonable needs based on an immediate six-month planning period, or 25% of the full award amount, whichever is the lesser amount. However, under no circumstances may advance payments result in the reduction or elimination of the amount of required withholding (retention) or any required cost share amount. Any determination regarding further advance payment(s) must be made in writing.

Emergency Advance Payment Requests

During the course of implementing a project, a funding recipient may have an emergency arise that may significantly affect its cash flow or available capital. In this case, it may be

possible to award a funding recipient and advance payment based on emergency needs. An “emergency” is a sudden, unexpected occurrence, beyond the control of the funding recipient. A funding recipient’s mismanagement of its resources or lack of sufficient planning does not constitute an emergency. If a funding recipient has previously been denied a request for advance payment, it is not eligible to receive an emergency advance payment. A request for emergency advance payment is open to any funding recipient that has been previously awarded advance payment (whether it accepted it or not), and any funding recipients that did not apply for an advance when permitted to do so.

To make a request for an emergency advance payment, a funding recipient will need to provide a statement explaining the nature of the emergency and how that emergency necessitates the need for advance payment, along with supporting documentation. If the funding recipient has not previously applied for advance payment, all the documentation required for an initial application for advance payment must be submitted as well. Approval and use of an emergency advance payment is subject to the same requirements as listed above and while the Department shall endeavor to expedite an emergency request, there is no guarantee that funds can be disbursed more quickly than the usual State process.

Reduction of Withholding Amount

Funding agreements are required to have a minimum withholding amount of ten percent (10%) of the total award amount pending the satisfactory completion of the project and submission of all deliverables. (Gov. Code, § 10346; State Contract Manual, vol. 1, § 7.33.) This minimum amount is required unless there is statutory authority permitting a reduction or elimination of the withholding amount.

Water Code section 550 permits the Department to reduce or eliminate the withholding amount for funding agreements with local public agencies that have been approved and receive an advance payment, and the project’s purpose is to (1) restore habitat for threatened or endangered species, and/or (2) improve flood protection. For any such project that has also been awarded an amount of \$10,000,000 or more, the withholding amount shall be reduced to five percent (5%) and set forth in the funding agreement.

CALIFORNIA
NATURAL
RESOURCES
AGENCY
DEPARTMENT OF
WATER
RESOURCES
DIVISION OF REGIONAL ASSISTANCE



Item No. 4C Motion Item

DATE: September 11, 2026 (for September 17, 2026, meeting)

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Anthony A. Emmert, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Executive Director Transition

RECCOMENDATION:

The Board will consider alternatives for its Executive Director position and provide comments and directions.

DISCUSSION:

Since mid-2018, the Agency's Executive Director position has been provided by United Water Conservation District (District), as part of its agreement for technical and administrative services. On November 6, 2026, Anthony Emmert will retire from his District position as Assistant General Manager. The District does not anticipate having a replacement Assistant General Manager by that date and currently does not have an employee to immediately assume the role of Executive Director for the Agency.

This change will present the Agency with several choices:

- Request that the District provide an Executive Director as soon as available.
- Inquire with the other members of the Joint Powers Agreement (County of Ventura, City of Fillmore) whether they are interested in and willing to enter into an agreement to provide an employee to serve as Executive Director.
- Issue a request for qualifications/request for proposals to consultant firms for a contract Executive Director.
- Contract directly with the existing Executive Director.

The District and the existing Executive Director are committed to assisting the Agency through the transition period.

FISCAL IMPACT:

None at present. The Agency's Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Budget is likely sufficient to cover several of the alternatives. An appropriation from Agency reserves may be necessary, depending upon the hourly fee proposal.

ATTACHMENTS

None

Proposed Motion: Consider alternatives for Executive Director position and provide comments and directions.

1st: Director _____ 2nd Director _____

Voice/Roll call vote:

Director Garnica:

Director Jackson:

Director Kimball:

Director Long:

Director Meneghin: