

6. PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

The SGMA requires the GSA to partner with groundwater users to develop and implement GSPs to achieve groundwater sustainability. SGMA requires the Wyandotte Creek Subbasin to be sustainable by 2042. The GSP includes provisions to evaluate current conditions in the Wyandotte Creek Subbasin (Section 2), establish the SMC (Section 3), gather and analyze groundwater data (Section 4), and report findings. The provisions in the GSP will be evaluated every 5 years and updated as necessary. The Wyandotte Creek Subbasin GSA is required to submit the GSP to DWR by January 31, 2022. DWR will evaluate the GSP within 24 months of submittal. Upon submittal of this GSP to DWR, GSP implementation will begin in the Wyandotte Creek Subbasin. The GSA will continue their efforts with public engagement and to secure funding to monitor and manage groundwater resources. This section presents the manner in which the GSA will execute the GSP consistent with the requirements in CCR Title 23 § 354.6(e).

The GSP includes provisions for:

- Gathering data at RMS locations
- Evaluation of SMC
- Report of findings and analysis
- PMAs

Each of these will require funding and schedule coordination to help achieve Wyandotte Creek Subbasin sustainability goals. The following sections describe the funding mechanisms and timetable for the GSP implementation.

6.1 Estimate of Groundwater Sustainability Plan Implementation Costs

Where feasible, the GSA will use existing funding and/or programs for use in the GSP implementation. The GSA, member agencies, and water purveyors will coordinate to implement the actions outlined in this GSP. The GSA will fund the implementation of the GSP where other sources are not available. The cost of implementation of the GSP by activity is presented below.

6.1.1 Administrative Costs

These include the cost of annually operating the GSA, including staff expenses, audit, outreach, legal and other administrative costs. This does not include agency specific project implementation costs. Costs are estimated to be in the range of approximately \$100,000 to \$300,000 annually.

Table 6-1: Estimated Administrative Costs

| GSP Implementation | Estimated Annual Costs |
|--------------------|------------------------|
| Public Outreach | \$15,000 |
| Staff | \$100,00 |
| Legal | \$20,000 |
| Total Estimate | \$135,000 |

6.1.2 Monitoring

Monitoring for compliance with SGMA regulations will include biannual collection of groundwater levels at 9 RMS locations and annual collection of groundwater quality at 8 RMS locations. Monitoring activity costs will include labor (field data collection, surveying, laboratory analysis, project management) and equipment (vehicles, meters, pumps, field tools/supplies).

Table 6-2: Monitoring Activities and Estimated Cost

| Monitoring Activity | Frequency | Estimated Annual Cost |
|---------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| Groundwater Levels | Biannual, 2 events | \$15,000 |
| Groundwater Quality | Annual, 1 event | \$6,000 |

Some RMS locations include wells that are monitored and funded under existing programs.

6.1.3 Data Analysis

The data gathered from the monitoring will be analyzed to assess trends for determination of undesirable results. Analysis of the data may lead to modifications in the RMS network, the HCM, and the priority of PMAs. Data gaps that arise from analysis may require installation of new RMS locations.

Table 6-3: Data Analysis Activities and Estimated Cost

| Data Analysis Activity | Frequency | Estimated Annual Cost |
|----------------------------|-----------|-----------------------|
| DMS | Annual | \$5,000 |
| Review of Groundwater Data | Annual | \$5,000 |

6.1.4 Reporting and Evaluation

Annual reports are required after GSP adoption to provide updates to general GSP information, basin conditions, and plan implementation progress. Section 6.5 discusses the annual reporting plan in more detail. GSA are required to conduct an evaluation of the GSP and prepare a report every 5 years or whenever the GSP is amended. Section 6.6 discusses the evaluation report in more detail.

Table 6-4: Reporting and Evaluation Activities and Estimated Cost

| Reporting Activity | Frequency | Estimated Cost |
|--------------------------|-----------|----------------|
| Annual Report | Annual | \$30,000 |
| 5-year Evaluation Report | 5 Years | \$100,000 |

6.1.5 Data Collection

A discussion of the data needed to improve groundwater management and address data gaps is presented in Section 5 and the estimated costs are presented below.

Table 6-5: Estimated Costs for Implementing Data Improvements to address Data Gaps

| Data Collection | Estimated Costs |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Contour Mapping | \$15,000 - \$40,000 |
| Interconnected Surface Water/GDEs | \$100,000 - \$200,000 |
| Butte Basin Model Update 1 | \$25,000 - \$75,000 |
| Butte Basin Model Update 2 | \$25,000 - \$75,000 |

6.1.6 Project and Management Actions

The PMAs and anticipated costs are presented in Section 5. The PMAs with a planned initiation date in or before 2027 are presented below.

Table 6-6: Estimated Project Costs

| Project Name | Capital Costs | Expected Groundwater Demand Reduction (AFY) |
|--------------------------------------------------|---------------|---------------------------------------------|
| Residential Water Conservation | TBD | 100 - 200 |
| Agricultural Irrigation Efficiency | TBD | Up to 4,000 |
| Flood MAR | TBD | 1000 - 3000 |
| Oroville Wildlife Area Robinson's Riffle Project | \$1.7M | TBD |
| Streamflow Augmentation | TBD | 1,000 – 5,000 |
| TWSD Water Treatment Plant Capacity Upgrade | \$1.5 - \$3M | 500+ |
| Water Loss Monitoring | \$800,000 | TBD |
| Palermo Clean Water Improvement Project | TBD | TBD |
| Intra-Basin Water Transfer | TBD | 3,000 – 5,000 |
| Agricultural Surface Water Supplies | | 2,000 – 3,000 |
| Well Upgrades | TBD | TBD |
| Fuel Management for Watershed Health | TBD | TBD |
| Removal of Invasive Species | TBD | TBD |

6.2 Identify Funding Alternatives

The GSA will seek to capitalize on existing funding and programs that overlap with GSP requirements. For example, Butte County, DWR and other entities currently fund groundwater data collection programs at locations within the Wyandotte Creek Subbasin. The GSAs will ensure that the existing programs meet the technical requirements of the monitoring and reporting as outlined in the GSP.

In cases where no funding or programs are established, the GSA will be responsible for securing funding for the GSP implementation. The GSA will coordinate funding with their respective constituent members within the Wyandotte Creek Subbasin. GSAs will fund the GSP through a cost-sharing collaboration to be determined after adoption of GSP.

Funding is anticipated to be met from one or a combination of the following sources: direct contributions from the GSA constituent members, State and Federal grant funding, and taxes or assessments levied on landowners and groundwater users in accordance with local and State law.

The GSAs are evaluating a variety of funding mechanisms including Proposition 218 or Proposition 26 to support ongoing operational costs and to fund agency operations. These costs include retaining consulting firms and legal counsel to provide oversight and assist with SGMA compliance. Expenses consist of administrative support, GSP development, and GSP implementation.

6.3 Schedule for Implementation

The monitoring, data analysis and reporting will begin upon submittal of the GSP by DWR. The PMAs listed in Table 6-4 are scheduled to be completed by 2027 or earlier. Each of the PMAs will be completed by priority as funding and resources become available.

6.4 Data Management Systems

In development of this GSP, the GSA developed a groundwater model that was calibrated to estimate future scenarios. The DMS plans to build on existing data inputs in the groundwater model and develop a more formalized approach to collecting and capturing data. As stated in Section 4, Monitoring Network, future data will be gathered to develop annual reports as well as provide necessary information for future and ongoing update to the groundwater models at five-year intervals upon GSP implementation. The DMS that will be used is a geographical relational database that will include information on water levels, land elevation measurements, and water quality testing. The DMS will allow the GSA to store the necessary information for annual reporting.

The DMS will be on local servers and data will be transmitted annually to form a single repository for data analysis for the Wyandotte Creek Subbasin's groundwater, as well as to allow for preparation of annual reports. GSA representatives have access to data and will be able to ask for a copy of the regional DMS. The DMS currently includes the necessary elements required by the regulations, including:

- Well location and construction information for the representative monitoring points (where available)
- Water level readings and hydrographs including water year type
- Land based measurements
- Water quality testing results
- Estimate of groundwater storage change, including map and tables of estimation
- Graph with Water Year type, Groundwater Use, Annual Cumulative Storage Change

Reporting generated from data from the GSAs will include but is not limited to:

- Seasonal groundwater elevation contours

- Estimated groundwater extraction by category
- Total water uses by source

Additional items may be added to the DMS in the future as required. Data will be entered into the DMS by each GSA. The majority of the data will then be aggregated to the entity that is responsible for the regional DMS and summarized for reporting to DWR. Groundwater contours will be prepared outside of the DMS because of the need to evaluate the integrity of the data collected and generate a static contour set that has been reviewed and will not change once approved. Groundwater storage calculations will be calculated in accordance with the method described in Section 2, outside of the DMS. Results are uploaded to the DMS for annual reporting and trend monitoring. Since most of the pumping in the Wyandotte Creek Subbasin is not currently measured, the groundwater pumping estimates are also calculated outside of the DMS using the methods developed by GSA and uploaded to the DMS for annual reporting and trend analysis. The GSA may choose to have their own separate system for additional analysis.

The one-time cost of expanding the existing data systems is estimated between \$50,000 to \$200,000 as the system is still being evaluated. The Board has indicated a desire to make the data transparent and available to the public while respecting the privacy of individual landowners.

6.5 Annual Reporting

Annual reports will be submitted by April 1 for the prior year's activities. The report will include a general update in the form of an executive summary with accompanying map of the Wyandotte Creek Subbasin. The body of the report will include a detailed discussion and graphical representation of the following:

- Groundwater elevation data, including contour maps at seasonal high and low conditions and hydrographs using water year type and historical data from at least 2015.
- Groundwater extraction data divided into volume by water usage sectors with accompanying map, including a description of the methodology and accuracy of the groundwater extraction estimation.
- Surface water volume used or available for use for groundwater recharge or in-lieu use, including a description of the water sources.
- Total water volume use divided into water use sector and water source type, including a description of the methodology and accuracy of the water use estimation.
- Changes in groundwater storage with accompanying map, including a graph with water year type, groundwater use, annual change in groundwater storage, and cumulative change in groundwater storage using historical data from at least 2015.

The annual report will also include a discussion and update on the plan implementation including the status of IM and the execution of PMAs.

6.6 Evaluation Report

The GSAs will evaluate the GSP and provide an evaluation report every 5 years or whenever the GSP is amended for submittal to DWR.

The assessment will include a detailed discussion of the following:

- Significant new information and whether the information warrants changes to the basin setting, MOs, MTs, and SIs, including completed or planned GSP amendments.
- Current groundwater conditions relating to each MO, MT and IM.
- Implementation of any project and management actions and the resulting effects on groundwater conditions.
- Assessment of the basin setting, MAs, undesirable results, MOs and MTs.
- Evaluation of the basin setting and overdraft conditions to include changes in water use, along with overdraft mitigation measures (if applicable).
- Assessment of the monitoring network with analysis of data collected to date, including identification of data gaps and suggested improvements of the network.
- Program to address data gaps, including timing and incorporation of data into the GSP, with prioritization on the installation of new data collection sites and analysis of new data based on the needs of the basin.
- Relevant actions taken by the GSAs including a summary of regulations, ordinances, legal enforcement or action related to the implementation of the GSP and sustainability goals.

Summary of coordination by GSAs within the basin or within hydrogeologically connected basins and land use agencies.

6.7 Interbasin Coordination

Wyandotte Creek GSA intends to coordinate in the following ways with its neighboring subbasins and with subbasins in the Feather River Corridor (Wyandotte Creek, Butte, North Yuba, Sutter Subbasins):

1. Information Sharing

Wyandotte Creek Subbasin will work with GSA staff of Butte and North Yuba subbasins to identify lines of communication and methods for information sharing between subbasins and GSA Boards. This will continue throughout GSP implementation and may include:

1. Inform each other on changing conditions (i.e., surface water cutbacks, land use changes, policy changes that inform groundwater management)
2. Share annual reports and interim progress reports

3. Share data and technical information and work towards building shared data across and/or along basin boundaries (e.g., monitoring data, water budgets, modeling inputs and outputs, and GDEs)

2. Conduct Joint Analysis and Evaluation of GSPs

Wyandotte Creek Subbasin intends to pursue grant funding and collaboratively work with subbasins in the Feather River Corridor group to:

1. Contract with a consultant to conduct this work
2. Evaluate and compare contents of GSPs with a focus on establishing a common understanding of basin conditions at boundaries
3. Identify significant differences, uncertainties, and potential issues of concern related to groundwater interaction at the boundaries
4. Engage in analysis and evaluation of SMC between GSPs to assess impacts and identify significant differences and possible impacts between subbasins that could potentially lead to undesirable results

3. Coordinate on mutually beneficial activities

Wyandotte Creek GSA will work collaboratively with Feather River Corridor subbasins to identify items in our GSPs that are ripe for a coordinated project and pursuit of funding such as Projects and Management Actions, Data Gaps (new monitoring wells, stream gaging etc.)

1. Wyandotte Creek will pursue grant funding to support a consultant to conduct this work
2. Wyandotte Creek will work collaboratively with the Northern California Water Association (NCWA) and others in their efforts to pursue funding and support local and state agency activities to identify and fill regional data gaps

4. Coordinated Communication and Outreach

Wyandotte Creek GSA staff will continue to participate in regional public engagement activities and efforts related to implementation of SGMA in the Northern Sacramento Valley. This may include:

1. Coordinate and collaborate on regional-scale public engagement and communication strategies that promote awareness on groundwater sustainability, enhance public trust, and maintain institutional knowledge
2. Maintain list of GSP/subbasin staff contacts and websites

5. Issue Resolution Process

Wyandotte Creek Subbasin will pursue development of an issue-resolution process with neighboring subbasins in the Feather River Corridor group.

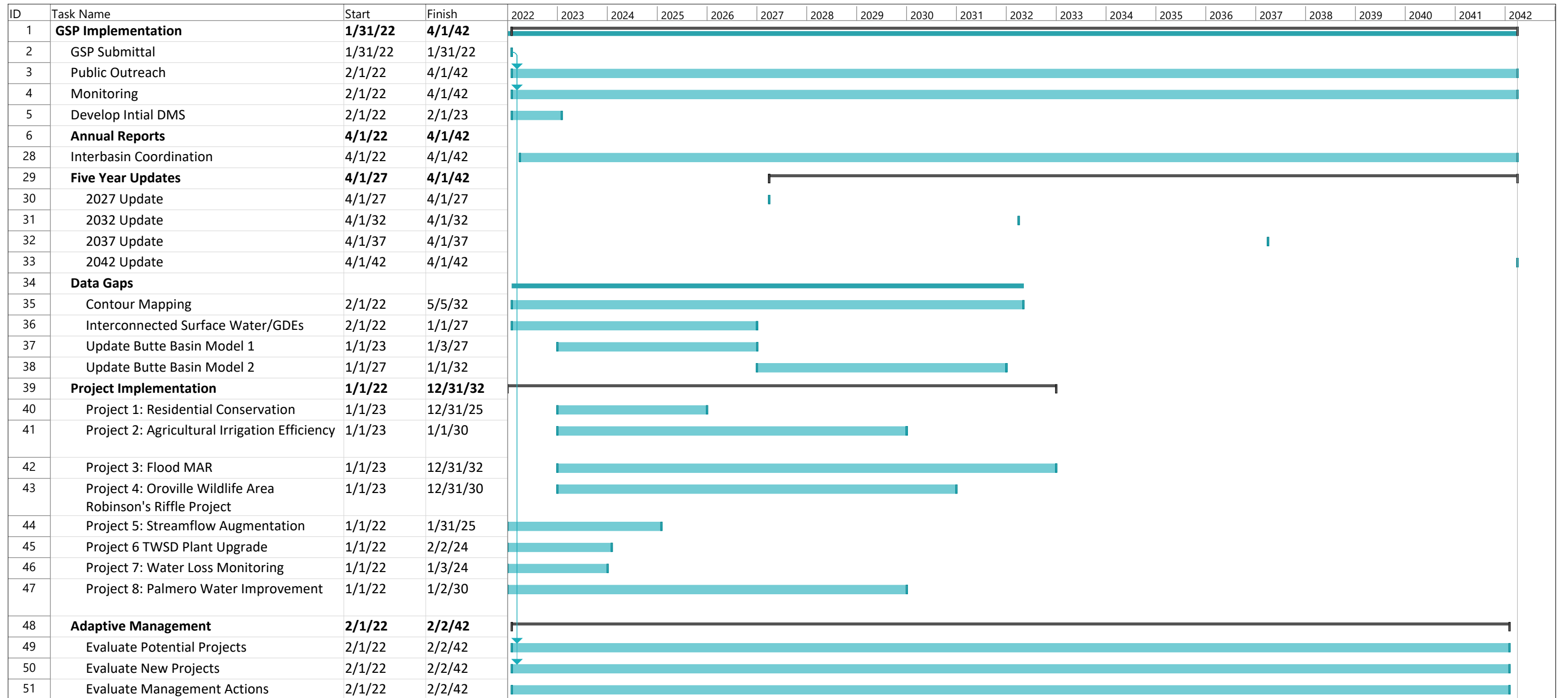


Figure 6-1
Implementation Schedule



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