

SECTION 1: Introduction to Plan Contents [Article 5 §354]

§354 Introduction to Plan Contents. This Article describes the required contents of Plans submitted to the Department for evaluation, including administrative information, a description of the basin setting, sustainable management criteria, description of the monitoring network, and projects and management actions.

This section describes the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA), the Carpinteria Groundwater Basin (Basin), the purpose of this Groundwater Sustainability Plan (Plan), and how this Plan is organized.

1.1 Purpose of the Groundwater Sustainability Plan

In 2014, the State of California enacted SGMA. This law requires groundwater basins in California that are designated as medium or high priority to be managed sustainably. Satisfying the requirements of SGMA generally requires four basic activities:

- Forming a Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) to fully cover the basin area
- Developing a Plan that fully covers the basin
- Implementing the Plan and managing the Basin to achieve quantifiable objectives
- Regular reporting to the California Department of Water Resources (DWR)

This document fulfills the Plan requirement for the Carpinteria GSA. It describes the Basin, develops quantifiable management objectives that account for the interests of the Basin's beneficial groundwater uses and users, and identifies a group of projects and management actions that will allow the Basin to achieve sustainability within 20 years of plan adoption.

This document was developed to comply with SGMA's statutory and regulatory requirements, and as such, uses the terminology set forth in these requirements (see California Water Code § 10721 and 23 California Code of Regulations § 351), which may be different from the terminology used in other contexts (e.g., past reports or studies, past analyses, judicial rules, or findings). This Plan is a planning document and does not define or change water rights.

1.2 Description of the Carpinteria Groundwater Basin

Located in the Central Coast region of California, the Basin is identified by DWR as Basin No. 3-018 and encompasses an area of approximately 12.7 square miles (DWR, 2018). The Basin is bounded on the north by the Santa Ynez Mountains and on the south by the Pacific Ocean. The eastern boundary is located near Laguna Ridge in Ventura County, and the western boundary is contiguous with the service area of the Carpinteria Valley Water District adjacent to the Montecito groundwater basin. Section 2.2 of this Plan provides a more detailed description of the area covered by the Plan.

1.3 Organization of the Plan

This Plan has been developed collaboratively by the member agencies making up the Carpinteria GSA. The organization of the Plan is as follows:

- **Section 1 – Introduction to Plan Contents:** An introduction to the Plan, including a description of its purpose and a brief description of the Basin.
- **Section 2 – Administrative Information:** Includes the following:

- Information on the Carpinteria GSA and a brief description of the agencies participating in the GSA, including information on the legal authority of the GSA to plan and coordinate groundwater sustainability for the Basin.
- An overview of the Basin, including land use and agencies with jurisdiction, a description of the existing groundwater management plans and regulatory programs, any programs for conjunctive use, and urban land use programs that might affect, or be affected by, this Plan.
- The Carpinteria GSA's communication and engagement planning and implementation, public feedback and stakeholder comments on the plan, how feedback was incorporated into the Plan, and responses to comments received.
- **Section 3 – Basin Setting:** Includes the following:
 - An explanation of the hydrogeologic conceptual model developed for the Basin that includes descriptions of the regional hydrology and geology, principal aquifers and aquitards, and a description of the data gaps in the current model.
 - A detailed description of the groundwater conditions, including groundwater elevations and changes in storage, seawater intrusion, groundwater quality for drinking water and agricultural irrigation and trends over time, an evaluation of land subsidence, locations where surface water and groundwater are interconnected, and the identification and distribution of groundwater-dependent ecosystems.
 - A presentation of the historical, current, and projected future water budgets for the Basin; how the water budgets were developed; an estimate of sustainable yield for the Basin; and the effects of climate change using DWR climate change assumptions.
- **Section 4 – Sustainable Management Criteria (SMC):** Defines the sustainability goal for the Basin; describes the process through which the SMCs were established; describes significant and unreasonable effects that could lead to undesirable results as a result of groundwater conditions occurring throughout the Basin; describes and defines SMCs regarding chronic lowering of groundwater levels, significant and unreasonable reduction in groundwater storage, seawater intrusion, degraded groundwater quality, land subsidence, and depletion of interconnected surface water (including quantity and timing of surface water depletion); and describes the minimum thresholds, measurable objectives, and interim milestones to avoid undesirable results.
- **Section 5 – Monitoring Networks:** A detailed description of the monitoring objectives and monitoring in the Basin for groundwater levels, storage, seawater intrusion, water quality, land subsidence, interconnected surface water, representative monitoring sites, and a description of the data management and reporting system.
- **Section 6 – Projects and Management Actions:** Provides a description of each project and management action that may be developed and implemented by the Carpinteria GSA to avoid undesirable results and ensure sustainability within 20 years of Plan adoption.
- **Section 7 – Plan Implementation:** Describes the implementation sequence for projects and management actions, overall schedule, estimated implementation costs, and sources of funding.