

Section 6: Plan Implementation

Table of Contents

Section 6. Plan Implementation 1

 Table of Contents..... 1

 Appendices 1

 6.1 Estimated Cost of Plan Implementation § 350.6(e)..... 2

 6.2 Schedule of Implementation § 350.4(f) 2

 6.3 Source of Funding § 350.6(e)..... 3

 6.3.1 Vandalia Water District General Fund..... 3

 6.3.2 Land-Based Assessment Fees 3

 6.3.3 Transitional Consumption Fees 3

 6.3.4 Over-Consumption Penalties 4

 6.3.5 Grants..... 4

 6.3.6 Federal and State Agency Programs 4

 6.4 Monitoring and Reporting 4

 6.4.1 Annual Reports § 356.2(a); § 356.2(b)(1)(A); § 356.2(b)(1)(B); § 356.2(b)(2); § 356.2(b)(3); § 356.2(b)(4); § 356.2(b)(5)(A); § 356.2(b)(5)(B); § 356.2(c) 5

 6.4.2 Five-year GSP Assessment § 356.4(a); § 356.4(b); § 356.4(c); § 356.4(d); § 356.4(e)(1); § 356.4(e)(2); § 356.4(e)(3); § 356.4(f); § 356.4(g); § 356.4(h); § 356.4(i); § 356.4(e)(j); § 356.4(k); 5

Appendices

Appendix 6-A: Vandalia WATER DISTRICT GSA Communications, Engagement and Outreach Plan

6.1 Estimated Cost of Plan Implementation § 350.6(e)

The estimated cost to implement this plan during the implementation period includes a variety of operational expenses, which include, but are not limited to:

- Annual Monitoring and Reporting
- Updates to Hydrogeologic Groundwater Flow Model
- Data Collection
- Public Outreach
- Administration
- Enforcement
- Projects

Implementation of this Plan will cost approximately \$20,000 each year, not including the Projects to be designed, permitted, and constructed during implementation.

During plan implementation, the budget will continue to be refined, and fee structures will be established and evaluated. The consumption fees are charged to all non-exempt groundwater pumpers on a per acre-foot basis. Fees will be evaluated and adjusted periodically to cover the cost of Plan implementation and project and management actions in the Plan. Each year, an annual operating budget is established that is approved by the District Board of Directors, with input and recommendations from the GPC.

6.2 Schedule of Implementation § 350.4(f)

This section outlines the general schedule identifying milestones to achieve sustainability over the period of 2020 to 2040. Implementation of this Plan will require the following:

- Hosting public outreach and landowner meetings for inputs to the decision-making process by which project and management action will be implemented and funded.
- Establishing key administrative and operational funding structures to manage Plan implementation.
- Expansion and refinement of the monitoring networks.
- Developing and managing management action plans.

This Plan includes monitoring, evaluating, and reporting of sustainability conditions to assess the progress of Plan implementation. This Plan is intended to develop and implement groundwater management actions to achieve the sustainability goal, set forth in this plan. It also includes tracking the development of any projects that are implemented in order to assess their benefit to the Subbasin and whether to modify the management action plan.

6.3 Source of Funding § 350.6(e)

The Agency has identified several potential sources of Funding. The following list and subsections describe those potential sources of funding. While the Agency has identified these potential sources of funding, the anticipation is, that as the plan is implemented, the plan will be refined over time, and, based on those refinements, the sources of funding may change as well.

List of Potential Sources of Funding

- Vandalia Water District General Fund
- Land-Based Assessment Fees
- Transitional Consumption Fees
- Over-Consumption Penalties
- Grant Programs
- Federal and State Agency Programs

6.3.1 Vandalia Water District General Fund

Beginning November 30, 2024, administrative and overhead costs of the plan have been funded through the Vandalia Water District annual general operating budget. Projects and management actions are being funded through the collection of the Transitional Water Consumption fees. In the future, the Agency may elect to include these costs, along with required funding for other aspects of the plan, in a Proposition 218 election, to provide for long-term funding for plan implementation.

6.3.2 Land-Based Assessment Fees

During 2023⁷ the Vandalia Water District sought and obtained landowner approval to change the funding structure of the District, using a Proposition 218 proceeding. This covers the cost of the portion of District groundwater banking for surface water recharged and stored by the District for future extraction and delivery to the landowners. The District implemented the new funding structure in 2024.

6.3.3 Transitional Consumption Fees

As described in **Section 5. Projects and Management Actions** of this Plan, there will be an initial period of groundwater pumping in excess of sustainable yield, referred to as a transitional period. This transitional period will allow for water users to transition from current farming practices and groundwater consumption quantities to farming practices and consumption quantities that will bring the Agency into sustainability. The transitional period will also allow the Agency to gather better data, fill in data gaps, and better analyze and prioritize projects needed for the most efficient and effective ways to reach sustainability. For every acre-foot of groundwater consumed above the sustainable yield, the water user will pay fees, as set annually by the District Board of Directors. The fees collected will be used for funding the implementation of projects and management actions identified in **Section 5. Projects and management Actions** of this Plan.

6.3.4 Over-Consumption Penalties

As described in **Section 5.2.1 Agency Groundwater Accounting Action**, one of the enforcement actions will be financial penalties for exceeding allowable consumption limits, including allowable transitional quantities, defined in this Plan to be established by the District's Board of Directors each year with input from the GPC. Similar to the Consumption Fees, the over-consumption penalties collected will be used to help fund the implementation of projects and management actions identified in **Section 5. Projects and Management Actions** of this Plan.

6.3.5 Grants

Staff will look for grant programs to supplement Plan implementation and project construction funding. Plan development and implementation funding has been available through various California Department of Water Resources programs. Water Use Efficiency and other project construction and implementation funding have previously been available through both DWR and the United States Bureau of Reclamation. To the extent that grant funding programs become available for Plan implementation and/or project construction and implementation, the Agency will be proactive in being prepared to apply for and use such grant funds.

6.3.6 Federal and State Agency Programs

Various ongoing programs are being implemented by federal and state agencies that could also provide a source of funding for either groundwater recharge (wetlands) or land retirement. Some programs require the agencies to meet specific targets for wetlands and/or upland species habitat. In addition, the state and federal agencies have, in the past, purchased land for refuge and/or other land conservation programs for species benefits. These programs could provide a revenue source to assist in meeting the groundwater recharge and land retirement programs outlined in **Section 5. Projects and Management actions** of this Plan.

6.4 Monitoring and Reporting

The Agency will direct the monitoring programs outlined in **Section 4. Monitoring Network** to track conditions in the agency related to the four applicable sustainability indicators. Data from the monitoring programs will be evaluated to ensure progress is being made toward sustainability or to identify whether undesirable results are occurring. Data will be maintained in the Data Management System (DMS) defined in the Tule Subbasin Coordination Agreement (see **Appendix A**). Data from the monitoring program will be used by the Agency to guide decisions on management actions and prepare annual reports to DWR and stakeholders and individual entities to guide decisions on projects. SGMA regulations require that the reports comply with DWR forms and submittal requirements that will be published by DWR, and that all transmittals are signed by an authorized representative. Data will be organized and available to the public to document Subbasin conditions. **Sections 6.4.1 Annual Reports** and **6.4.2 Five-year GSP Assessment** provide details on the reports to be prepared by the Agency and submitted to DWR.

6.4.1 Annual Reports § 356.2(a); § 356.2(b)(1)(A); § 356.2(b)(1)(B); § 356.2(b)(2); § 356.2(b)(3); § 356.2(b)(4); § 356.2(b)(5)(A); § 356.2(b)(5)(B); § 356.2(c)

Annual reports will be submitted to the DWR starting on April 1, 2025. The purpose of the report is to provide monitoring and total groundwater use data to DWR, compare monitoring data to the sustainable management criteria, and to adaptively manage actions and projects implemented to achieve sustainability. Annual Reports will be available on the District website: <http://www.ltrid.org/sigma/>

6.4.2 Five-year GSP Assessment § 356.4(a); § 356.4(b); § 356.4(c); § 356.4(d); § 356.4(e)(1); § 356.4(e)(2); § 356.4(e)(3); § 356.4(f); § 356.4(g); § 356.4(h); § 356.4(i); § 356.4(e)(j); § 356.4(k);

As a SGMA regulatory requirement, five-year GSP assessment reports will be provided to DWR. The GSA shall evaluate the GSP at least five years to assess whether it is achieving the sustainability goal in the Subbasin. The assessment will include a description of significant new information that has been available since the GSP adoption or amendment and whether the new information or understanding changes aspects of the plan.

Appendix 6-A: VANDALIA WATER DISTRICT GSA Communications, Engagement, and Outreach Plan