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SPADRA BASIN
GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY
AGENCY

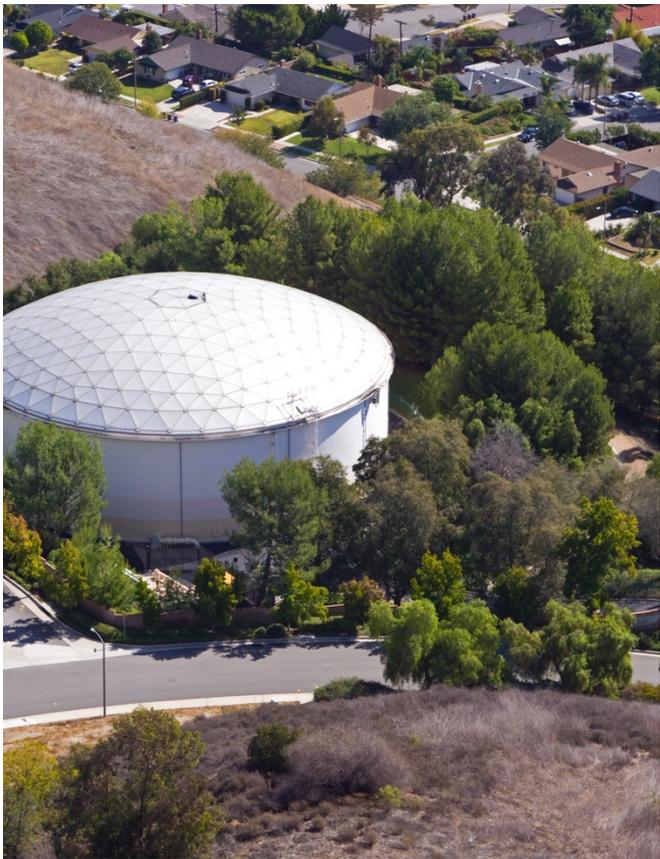
STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PLAN

JULY 2019

Overview

In 2014, the State of California enacted the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). The intent of the SGMA is to promote the sustainable use and management of groundwater resources without causing undesirable results over a 50-year planning horizon.

The SGMA empowers local public agencies to form Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) to manage groundwater basins sustainably, and requires those GSAs to prepare and adopt Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs) for all important groundwater basins in California. The SGMA requires that basins designated by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) as “high” or “medium” priority will be managed under a GSP. The DWR designated the Spadra Basin as a “very low” priority basin.



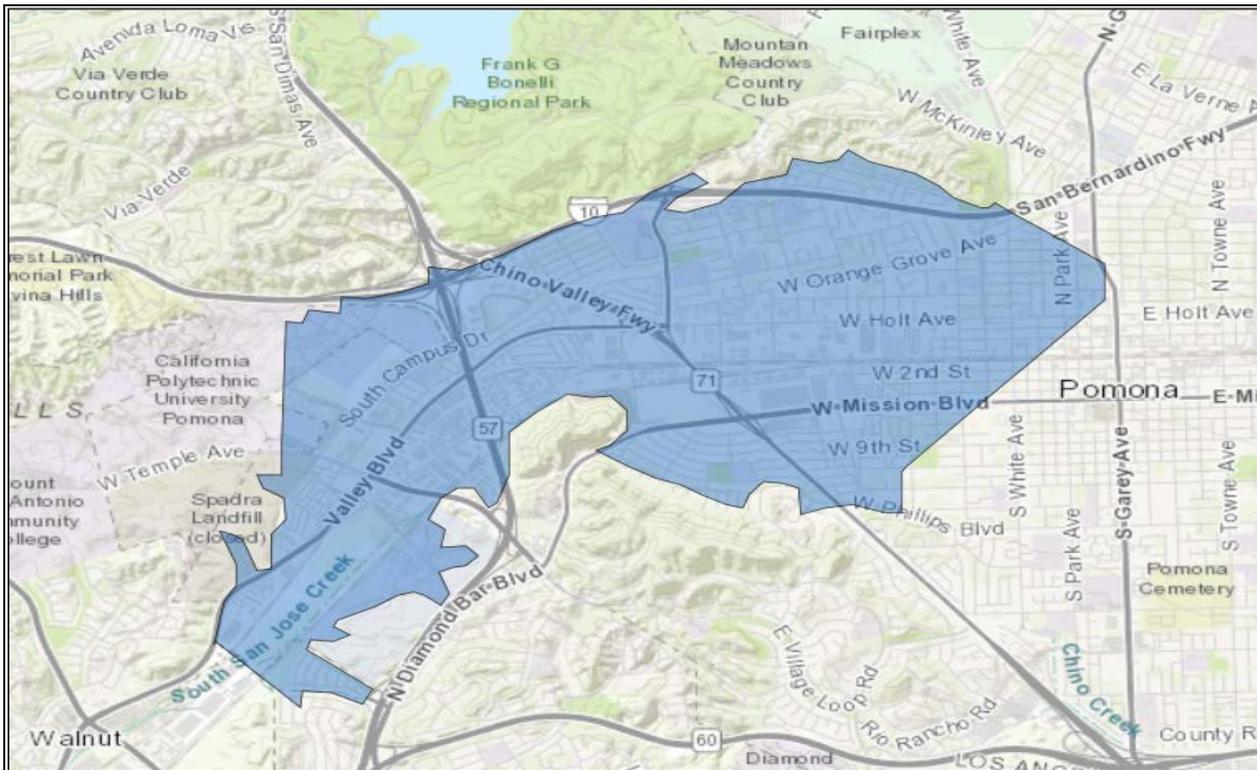
Stakeholder Engagement Plan

Background on Spadra Basin GSA

The Spadra Basin is a relatively small groundwater subbasin of the San Gabriel Valley Basin (DWR Basin 4-013) located in the City of Pomona in eastern Los Angeles County. The groundwater rights within most portions of the San Gabriel Valley Basin have been adjudicated (e.g. the Main San Gabriel Basin, Six Basins, and Puente Basin), but the Spadra Basin was not included in those adjudications. The Spadra Basin serves as a groundwater supply to the City of Pomona, Walnut Valley Water District, Cal Poly Pomona, and other private pumpers. Water from the basin is used by local residents and for industrial and irrigation purposes.

Although it is not a strict requirement of the SGMA, the Spadra Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (Spadra GSA) was formed in February 2017 under a Memorandum of Agreement between the City of Pomona (City) and the Walnut Valley Water District (District) and elected to prepare and adopt a GSP for the Spadra Basin with the objectives of maximizing its beneficial use while ensuring long-term sustainability. The Spadra GSA secured a State grant to fund the development of a portion of the GSP. The GSP must be submitted to the DWR by January 2022.

Figure 1: Spadra Basin GSA Boundaries Map



Purpose

The SGMA requires that a GSA must consider the interests of all beneficial uses and users of groundwater in the development of the GSP. Hence, the GSA needs to consider the effect of the GSP on stakeholders located within or around the groundwater basin and document the opportunities for public engagement and active involvement of diverse social, cultural, and economic elements of the population within the basin. The Spadra GSA has prepared this Stakeholder Engagement Plan to satisfy these requirements of the SGMA, encourage public participation, and describe the ways that the public and interested stakeholders can

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participate in the development and implementation of the Spadra Basin GSP.

This Stakeholder Engagement Plan has been developed pursuant to California Water Code Section 10723.2. in consideration of the interests of all beneficial uses and users of groundwater in the Spadra Basin. The Plan describes the GSA's program to:

- Identify stakeholders who have an interest in the Spadra Basin
- Understand and involve stakeholders and their concerns in the decision-making and activities of the Spadra GSA
- Inform the stakeholders of the communication and engagement process, and the anticipated schedule for providing information to the stakeholders and receiving feedback during GSP development and its implementation.
- Evaluate the success of stakeholder engagement methods and education.

This engagement plan will be updated as necessary

Spadra GSA Roles and Responsibilities

Executive Committee

The Spadra GSA Executive Committee is the governing body for the Spadra GSA and is responsible for the overall management of the GSA including the development of the Spadra GSP. All meetings will be noticed 72 hours in advance, are open to the public and will include a public comment period. Agendas, minutes, and meeting materials will be available on the Spadra Basin GSA's website (www.spadrabasin.com). The Spadra GSA Executive Committee members are listed in Appendix A.

Implementation Team

The Spadra GSA Implementation Team is comprised of staff from each of the participating Spadra GSA agencies and provides the administrative and technical support necessary to manage the Spadra GSA, including coordination of the GSP process. The Spadra GSA Implementation Team members are listed in Appendix A.

Advisory Committee

Comprehensive stakeholder involvement includes the establishment of an Advisory Committee to aid in the development of the GSP. All meetings will be noticed and will be open to the public. Agendas, minutes, and meeting materials will be posted on the Spadra GSA website (www.spadrabasin.com).

Project Schedule

The final GSP must be submitted to the California DWR by January 2022. The project schedule is designed to solicit, consider, and address public and stakeholder input regarding the important planning elements, including Basin conditions, groundwater modeling, sustainability goals, sustainability criteria, management actions, implementation plan, and the draft and final GSP.

The GSP will be based on hydrologic and hydrogeologic data, modeling, and evaluation of surface water and groundwater conditions, water uses, and water management options. Public outreach and engagement will be an important element of efforts to collect, review, validate, and refine the data and evaluation that will form the basis of the GSP and future management actions.

Listed below are the major phases of the development and adoption GSP process and the estimated timeline for completion of each phase.

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- Phase I – Develop Hydrogeologic Conceptual Model and Groundwater Model for the Spadra Basin (May, 2019 through June, 2020)
- Phase II – Develop Sustainable Management Criteria for the Spadra Basin (March, 2020 through May, 2020)
- Phase III – Evaluate the Sustainability of Future Baseline Conditions (May, 2020 through December, 2020)
- Phase IV – Evaluate Basin Optimization Scenarios to Achieve Sustainability (January, 2021 through September, 2021)
- Phase V - Develop Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) (July, 2021 through December, 2021)

This phased approach to preparing the GSP includes the development of five key Technical Memorandums (TMs) as interim milestones within the schedule:

1. Conceptual Model of the Spadra Basin
2. Construction and Calibration of the Spadra Basin Groundwater Model
3. Sustainable Management Criteria for the Spadra Basin
4. Sustainability of Future Baseline Conditions
5. Basin Optimization Scenario to Achieve Sustainability

These TMs will allow for efficient and focused review by GSA staff and the planned stakeholder Advisory Committee of the complex information that will form the foundation of the GSP. The schedule for review and feedback on these TMs will be posted on the GSA website (www.spadrabasin.com).

Key Messages

- Walnut Valley Water District and City of Pomona formed the Spadra Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency in February of 2017 to comply with the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act of 2014 (SGMA).
- The Spadra Basin GSA is currently crafting a Groundwater Sustainability Plan, which is designed to protect and manage the Spadra Basin.
- Spadra Basin provides water to local residents for industrial and irrigation uses.
- Primary stakeholders include Walnut Valley Water District, City of Pomona, Cal Poly Pomona, and Rowland Water District.
- Spadra Basin GSA is dedicated to keeping stakeholders informed by providing educational tools and resources.
- Public input will be sought and considered throughout the Groundwater Sustainability Plan process.
- A Stakeholder Advisory Committee including primary stakeholders will be created to provide the GSA with feedback through the major stages of the plan.
- Safeguarding our local groundwater basins is vital to the long-term health and sustainability of our current water supply and ensures a reliable water source for future regional needs.

Opportunities for Public Involvement

Spadra Basin GSA is committed to frequent, transparent communication with stakeholders and interested parties. The following opportunities outline the numerous ways Spadra Basin GSA will work to engage the public and provide updates in a timely manner:

Public Notices

To ensure that the general public is apprised of local activities and allow stakeholders to access information, SGMA specifies several public notice requirements for GSAs. Refer to Appendix B for a summary of statutory

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requirements. In addition, although not required by statute, certain additional notices will be published in local newspapers and distributed in an effort to ensure potential stakeholders are advised of important information during the GSP process.

Stakeholder Identification

According to Water Code section 10723.3, the GSP development process will consider the interests of holders of overlying groundwater rights (including agricultural users and domestic well owners), municipal well operators, public water systems, local land use planning agencies, environmental users of groundwater, surface water users, the federal government, Native American tribes, disadvantaged communities, and other local agencies that were monitoring and managing groundwater usage in the GSP area. The Spadra Basin GSA has compiled an initial list of stakeholders and interested persons for this purpose. The initial list has been included in Appendix C.

Public Meetings

Spadra Basin GSA Executive Committee Meetings, and Advisory Committee meetings will be regularly scheduled throughout the GSP development process. All meetings will be open to the public, will be noticed at least 72 hours prior, and will include a scheduled time for public comments.

Spadra Basin GSA Website (www.spadrabasin.com)

A Spadra Basin GSA website has been established and will be the central repository for all information related to the Spadra Basin GSA and the GSP process. All scheduled meetings and agendas, notices, press releases, project reports and other related information will be available on the website. In addition, the website provides options for contacting the Spadra Basin GSA, and interested parties can sign-up to receive all GSA and GSP related notifications.

Interested Persons Database

To distribute information about the Spadra Basin GSA and GSP development, an email list has been compiled into a database of interested persons and stakeholders. The database will be updated regularly to add names of attendees at public meetings along with those requesting information via email or the through the Spadra Basin GSA website. Regular mail will be used for any person(s) that does not have access to email. Subscribers will also receive news and updates about the GSA process. Spadra Basin GSA will explore additional opportunities to grow the email subscription list and the type of information distributed.

Evaluation

To determine the level of success of the Engagement Plan, the Spadra Basin GSA will implement the following measures:

Attendance/Participation

A record of those attending public meetings will be maintained throughout the GSP development process. The Spadra Basin GSA will utilize sign-in sheets and request feedback from attendees to determine adequacy of public education and engagement in the GSP development and implementation process.

Adherence to Schedule

Public participation in the GSP process is instrumental to the success of the project. Keeping the project and related tasks on schedule will help promote and ensure active stakeholder involvement. The Spadra Basin GSA will make every effort to ensure the GSP project and related tasks are completed on schedule.

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Communication with Spadra Basin GSA

The following personnel will serve as contacts for the public during preparation of the GSP or information related to the Spadra Basin GSA.

General Information

For general information about the Spadra Basin GSA contact:
Brian Teuber, Administrative Officer, Telephone: 909-348-8202
Email: bteuber@wwwd.com.

GSP Project Manager

Stakeholders and any public seeking specific information about the GSP may contact:
Sherry Shaw, P.E., Telephone: 909-595-1268 Ext. 234
Email: sshaw@wwwd.com

Spadra Basin Website

For additional information and resources, please visit the website at www.spadrabasin.com.

APPENDIX A

Spadra Basin GSA Committee and Implementation Team Members

Executive Committee Members

Two each from the City of Pomona and Walnut Valley Water District:

Vacant	President, Walnut Valley Water District
Victor Preciado	Vice President, City of Pomona
Nora Garcia	Alternate, City of Pomona
Jerry Tang	Alternate, Walnut Valley Water District

The Executive Committee have appointed the following positions:

Brian Teuber	Administrative Officer
Jim Ciampa	Legal Counsel

Implementation Team Members

Joshua Byerrum	Walnut Valley Water District
Chris Diggs	City of Pomona
Erik Hitchman	Walnut Valley Water District
Damian Martinez	City of Pomona
Sherry Shaw	Walnut Valley Water District
Brian Teuber	Walnut Valley Water District

Advisory Committee

Bob Bowcock/Kevin Sage	Forest Lawn
Rick Hansen/George Lwin	Cal Poly Pomona
Timothy Kellet/Carlos Goytia	Three Valleys Municipal Water District
Dave Warren/Tom Coleman	Rowland Water District

APPENDIX B

Summary of Statutory Requirements for Stakeholder Engagement

<i>During GSA Formation:</i>	
“Before electing to be a groundwater sustainability agency... the local agency or agencies shall hold a public hearing.”	Water Code Sec. 10723 (b)
“A list of interested parties [shall be] developed [along with] an explanation of how their interests will be considered.”	Water Code Sec. 10723.8.(a)(4)
<i>During GSP Development and Implementation:</i>	
“A groundwater sustainability agency may adopt or amend a groundwater sustainability plan after a public hearing”.	Water Code Sec. 10728.4
“Prior to imposing or increasing a fee, a groundwater sustainability agency shall hold at least one public meeting”.	Water Code Sec. 10730(b)(1)
“The groundwater sustainability agency shall establish and maintain a list of persons interested in receiving notices regarding plan preparation, meeting announcements, and availability of draft plans, maps, and other relevant documents”.	Water Code Sec. 10723.4
“Any federally recognized Indian Tribe... may voluntarily agree to participate in the preparation or administration of a groundwater sustainability plan or groundwater management plan... A participating Tribe shall be eligible to participate fully in planning, financing, and management under this part”.	Water Code Sec. 10720.3(c)
“The groundwater sustainability agency shall make available to the public and the department a written statement describing the manner in which interested parties may participate in the development and implementation of the groundwater sustainability plan”.	Water Code Sec. 10727.8(a)
<i>Throughout SGMA Implementation:</i>	
“The groundwater sustainability agency shall consider the interests of all beneficial uses and users of groundwater”.	Water Code Sec. 10723.2
“The groundwater sustainability agency shall encourage the active involvement of diverse social, cultural, and economic elements of the population within the groundwater basin”.	Water Code Sec. 10727.8(a)

Source: Community Water Center. *Collaborating for Success: Stakeholder Engagement for Sustainable Groundwater Management Act Implementation*. July 2015.

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APPENDIX C

Initial Stakeholder List

Name

Frank G. Bonelli Park
CA Department of Fish and Wildlife
California Department of Water Resources
Cal Poly Pomona
California Department of Transportation - District 7
Chino Basin Watermaster
City of Diamond Bar
City of Diamond Bar City Council
City of Industry
City of Industry City Council
City of Pomona
City of Pomona Office of the Mayor and City Council
City of Walnut
City of Walnut City Council
County Board of Supervisors
Dyett and Bhatia Urban and Regional Planners
Inland Empire Utilities Agency
County of LA Department of Public Works - Water Resources
Los Angeles County Flood Control District
LA County Sanitation District
LA Regional Water Quality Control Board
Main San Gabriel Basin Watermaster
Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
Historical Society of Pomona Valley
Puente Basin Watermaster
Rowland Heights Community Coordinating Council
Six Basins Watermaster
Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG)
Three Valleys Municipal Water District
Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Walnut Hills Mobile Home Community