

Santa Monica Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency Board Meeting

JANUARY 21, 2026

Santa Monica Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency Agenda – January 21, 2026

Board of Directors Meeting Santa Monica Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency Agenda for January 21 at 9:00 AM

| Board of Directors | | | |
|--------------------|---|--|--------------------------|
| Attending | Agency | Board Member | Alternate |
| | City of Beverly Hills | Robert Welch | Vince Damasse |
| | City of Culver City | Sean Singletary | |
| | City of Los Angeles Department of Water and Power | Jesus Gonzalez | John Huynh, Chair |
| | County of Los Angeles | Gina Natoli | |
| | City of Santa Monica | Christopher Dishlip, Vice-Chair | Sunny Wang |

In addition to attending meetings in person, meetings may be viewed via Teams. Please note that virtual attendance via Teams is offered as a courtesy and that technical difficulties shall not require that a meeting be postponed. Instructions for attending meetings in person and virtually are provided below.

IN-PERSON PARTICIPATION

Santa Monica City Hall East, Room 219
1685 Main St., Santa Monica, CA 90401

Parking Instructions

Please note that the entrance to City Hall East is located on Olympic Boulevard next to (west from) the Public Safety Building at 333 Olympic Drive, Santa Monica, CA, 90401. Parking for City Hall East is located at Civic Center Parking Structure located at 333 Civic Center Drive, Santa Monica, CA 90401, across Olympic Blvd from City Hall East. Information and parking rates can be found online at:

<https://www.santamonica.gov/places/parking-lots/civic-center-parking-structure>

Instructions for In-Person Public Participation

If a member of the public is interested in speaking during the public comment portion of the Board meeting, please submit a speaking request via email to Lisette.Gold@santamonica.gov by 5:00 PM the day before the meeting and specify “in-person participation”. Your name, the agenda item number, agenda item title, and comment summary must be included in the email, or the comment will not be added to the speaker list. At the start of each agenda item, the Secretary of the Board will read the names of those who have requested to speak in advance on an agenda item. All public comment outside of the Public Forum must be germane to the specific agenda item you have indicated.

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If you wish to comment on an item and have not submitted a public comment request prior to today's meeting, please do so now by filling out a public comment card request. Comment requests cards are available at the back of the room. On the request form, please include your name, comment summary and the agenda item number and title or the comment will not be added to the speaker list. Once you have filled out the request, you may submit it to the Secretary of the Board before the item is called. Public comment cards submitted after the start of the public comment period for the identified agenda item will not be added to the speaker list. At the start of each agenda item, the Secretary of the Board will read the names of those who have requested to speak on an agenda item.

VIRTUAL PARTICIPATION

Register in advance for this meeting by either clicking the link below or copying it into your browser:

- <https://events.teams.microsoft.com/event/dc6a0e6e-ad07-4841-8189-3b981c46a0e4@82b8a27d-5b4c-4dbe-ba36-0ee75edffcac>

Instructions for Virtual Public Participation

As a courtesy, the public is invited to attend the meeting virtually via Teams. In order to have the opportunity to speak during the public comment portion of the Board meeting, please submit a speaking request via email to Lisette.Gold@santamonica.gov by 5:00 PM the day before the meeting and specify "virtual participation".

Your name, the agenda item number, agenda item title, and comment summary must be included in the email, or the comment will not be added to the speaker list. At the start of each agenda item, the Secretary of the Board will read the names of those who have requested to speak on an agenda item. All public comment outside of the Public Forum must be germane to the specific agenda item you have indicated.

Instructions for using Teams to Speak

After joining the meeting, please make sure you have audio and microphone capabilities enabled on your device. You may follow the prompts on the video version of Teams to test your speaker and microphone.

When your name has been called in the meeting, you will be invited to unmute, and you will unmute yourself and be able to speak for up to 3 minutes. When the time allotted to you has expired, you will be muted again.

WRITTEN PUBLIC COMMENT

To submit a written public comment on agenda items, please email Lisette.Gold@santamonica.gov with your comment and specify "written public comment only." Please include your name, the agenda item number and agenda item title in the email. Your comment will be placed into the record and distributed appropriately.

BASIC GSA MEETING RULES

Public Comment

Members of the public have up to 3 minutes to speak on each item. In the interest of allowing enough time to cover the business on the agenda, please be advised that the Chair of the Board has the discretion to reduce the time limits for each speaker or the public comment period for each agenda item. When speaking, please state your name clearly for the record before beginning your remarks.

Materials handed in during the meeting will be uploaded to the website in a timely fashion after the meeting.

Rules of Conduct

The Board will only entertain comments that are civil. Anyone who makes derogatory comments or targets individuals, will be asked to sit down and given a warning by the Chair of the Board. The individual will be asked to leave by the Chair of the Board if they continue with disruptive conduct per SB 1100. No warning is required if the individual is using force or threatening to use force against someone.

AGENDA

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Pledge of Allegiance**
- 3. Roll Call and Determination of a Quorum**
- 4. Disclosure of ex parte communications for board members**
- 5. Consent Items**
 - A. Approval of Minutes from the October 15, 2025, SMBGSA Board Meeting
- 6. Public Forum**

*This portion of the agenda may be utilized by any member of the public to address and ask questions of the Board of Directors on any matter **not on the agenda** within the jurisdiction of the Santa Monica Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency. Depending upon the subject matter, the Board of Directors may be unable to respond at this time, or until the specific item is placed on the agenda at a future Board meeting in accordance with the Ralph M. Brown Act.*

- 7. Informational Items**
 - A. Standing Item: Report on Well Permit Requests in the Santa Monica Subbasin
 - B. Status update on seawater intrusion monitoring well
 - C. Update on the First Periodic Evaluation of the Groundwater Sustainability Plan

Santa Monica Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency Agenda – January 21, 2026

- i. Background
- ii. Basin Setting Review
- iii. Timeline

D. Update from the Alternative Governance Structures Ad-Hoc Subcommittee

8. Solicitation of Items to be Discussed at the Next Regular Board Meeting

9. Adjournment

5A

Approval of Minutes
from the October 15,
2025 Meeting

DRAFT Minutes for the Santa Monica Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency –Meeting
October 15 at 9:00 AM

| Board of Directors | | | |
|--------------------|---|-------------------|---------------------------|
| Attending | Agency | Board Member | Alternate |
| | City of Beverly Hills | Robert Welch | Vince Damasse |
| | City of Culver City | Sean Singletary | |
| | City of Los Angeles Department of Water and Power | Jesus Gonzalez | John Huynh, Vice Chair |
| | County of Los Angeles | Gina Natoli | |
| | City of Santa Monica | Sunny Wang, Chair | Christopher Dishlip |

Meeting Minutes

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:15 AM by Chair Wang.

2. Roll Call and Determination of a Quorum

Director Welch, City of Beverly Hills

Director Singletary, City of Culver City

Director Natoli, County of Los Angeles

Vice Chair Huynh, City of Los Angeles Department of Water and Power

Chair Wang, City of Santa Monica

Quorum was determined

3. Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Wang led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. Disclosure of ex parte communications for board members

There was no ex parte communication to disclose.

5. Consent Items

A. Approval of Minutes of July 16, 2025, Special Meeting

The Board had no comments or revisions to the minutes. There was a **motion** made by **Director Natoli** to **approve the meeting minutes**. The motion was **seconded** by **Director Welch**. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

6. Public Forum

No public comments were received.

7. Informational Items

7A. Standing Item: Report on Well Permit Requests in the Santa Monica Subbasin

Dr. Jill Weinberger with Dudek, a consultant for the Groundwater Sustainability Agency, explained that this item was included on the agenda as a standing item to ensure that the Board is kept abreast of any new well development within the basin. Dr. Weinberger and Lisette Gold, GSA Secretary indicated that there were no new well development applications within the Santa Monica sub-basin with the exception of a geo-thermal well application within the City of Beverly Hill, however, those wells do not fall under the GSA purview.

Public Comment on 7.A

No public comments were received.

7B. Update on coordination with Los Angeles County on Well Permits and Potential Basin Impacts

Dr. Weinberger discussed that this coordination is still occurring. It has not been formalized but it is a productive informal relationship that is being maintained. Neither party feels the need to change the relationship at this time as there is a good, ongoing flow of information.

Public Comment on 7.B

No public comments were received.

7C. Status Update on Seawater Intrusion Monitoring Well

Dr. Weinberger gave a synopsis of the background of the need to fill a data gap that was noted in the groundwater sustainability plan to provide a more coastally proximate seawater intrusion monitoring well. About a year ago the board commenced discussion on an opportunity to fill this gap and identify trends in groundwater quality (chloride concentration closer to the coast). Increases in chloride concentration could be an indication of seawater intrusion. Therefore, the City of Santa Monica met with the USGS in September. At that meeting, it was stated that the USGS would be drilling a well up to 1,000 feet below land surface, which would be a single borehole, with up to 6 individual

well casings completed within it. The individual casings would be set at different depths within the subsurface to identify groundwater elevations and quality at depth. The greater precision associated with this approach allows for a better understanding of and determination of what types of groundwater production could be causing seawater intrusion, if seawater intrusion is identified. Dr. Weinberger stated that these types of well are standard procedure for the USGS.

The location of the monitoring well was discussed in the context of the need for it to be close to the USGS survey line and to avoid inundation during high tide. The USGS seismic survey is not an earthquake seismic survey, but a surface level assessment that provides an understanding of subsurface sediment layers. Drilling a well along the survey line would be most instructive to illuminate broader information about the subbasin. USGS will monitor the impact of tides on the potential sites adjacent to the seismic survey line to inform eventual well drilling in the next 2 to 4 years. The USGS was going to provide the City of Santa Monica with a scope of work, but the government shut down prevented that from happening in time for the board meeting.

The GSA Board had questions as to the timing of the well being drilled vis-à-vis the identification of this data gap identified in the GSP and the first periodic evaluation of the GSP. The actual well completion would be outside of the 5-year timeline for completing the first periodic evaluation. Dr. Weinberger explained that she expected DWR to be understanding of that.

Public Comment on 7.C

Dr. Margot Griswold and Patricia McPherson gave public comments.

7D. Update on GSP Implementation Tasks

Dr. Weinberger gave an update on GSP Implementation Tasks. She stated that the requirements ensure that the board and the GSA continue to work towards filling data gaps and addressing the recommended corrective actions that came back when DWR approved the GSP. The Board hears regular updates on what is happening in the sub-basin. Dudek has prepared the annual reports, submitted those to DWR, and the GSA has received letters from DWR stating that the annual reports comply with their regulations and there is no need to change the annual reports at this time. The GSP requirements are to ensure that the board and the GSA continue to work towards filling data gaps and addressing the recommended corrective actions that came back when DWR approved the GSP. She explained that all basins received corrective actions given that the GSPs and the process is new statewide so there are ongoing improvements to the implementation of SGMA. The GSP requirements are to ensure that the board and

the GSA continue to work towards filling data gaps and address the recommended corrective actions that came back when DWR approved the GSP.

She reminded the board that they have been active in the process and have requested and received updates on GSP implementation status and tasks, reviewed the governance structure, undertaken revisions to the bylaws to improve governance structure, formed an ad hoc subcommittee, and have begun to adopt cost-sharing agreements for at least a portion of the administrative costs. The GSA is also receiving direct reporting from some of the groundwater extractions from private pumpers in the sub-basin, which hadn't been done before. With the groundwater extraction ordinance in place, the GSA will have metering of groundwater extractions through time.

The recommended corrective actions were discussed. The corrective action item related to seawater intrusion will likely require a conversation with DWR. As discussed earlier on, the need for the USGS groundwater monitoring well is the best source of information to track this item. The GSA has addressed other recommended corrective actions, including adding land subsidence maps to the annual reports to DWR, and will clarify language to address the remaining recommended corrective actions in the periodic evaluation. In summary, the Board is making good progress on all items.

Public Comment on 7.D

No public comments were received

7E. First Periodic Evaluation of the Groundwater Sustainability Plan

Dr. Weinberger gave an overview on the periodic evaluation of the GSP and the timeline of ongoing GSP implementation work. When the GSP was approved, DWR's recommended corrective actions were added to the list of core activities for GSP implementation. These recommended corrective actions were discussed in item 7D.

Dr Weinberger discussed technical and administrative components of the periodic evaluation. The periodic evaluation has a firm deadline of January 27th to remain in compliance with SGMA. The purpose of this item is to inform the board on the requirements of the periodic evaluation. At the next meeting Dr. Weinberger will discuss individual topics from the periodic evaluation. By this time next year, there will be a draft of the periodic evaluation so that there is enough time to review, comment, and get it to DWR by January 27th.

Public Comment on 7.E

Dr. Margot Griswold and Patricia McPherson commented.

F. Update from the Alternative Governance Structures Ad-Hoc Subcommittee

No comments on item 7.F.

Public Comment on 7.F

Patricia McPherson commented.

8. Action Items

8A. Election of Vice Chairperson

Dr. Weinberger provided background on the item, stating that Chair Wang from the City of Santa Monica is the current chairperson, so according to the bylaws, Chair Wang would rotate off the chairperson role and the representative from LADWP would rotate into that chairperson role, and then at this meeting the board would rotate and elect the next vice chair. The order of the rotation is Culver City, LADWP, Beverly Hills, Santa Monica, and County of Los Angeles. Next in order is Beverly Hills, however there is an option to decline the role in the bylaws. Beverly Hills respectfully declined the role. There was a motion by Chair Wang for the City of Santa Monica to take the Vice Chair position. There was roll call taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment on 8.A

No public comments were received.

9. Solicitation of Items to be Discussed at the Next Regular Board Meeting

Director Natoli requested the following items to be agendaized: 1) an update on the GSA's oversight authority for construction. The following meetings will be held on Teams instead of the Zoom platform.

Public Comment on 9

The board received no public comment.

10. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:26 AM.



6

Public Comment

7A

Standing Item: Report on Well Permit Requests in the Santa Monica Subbasin

7A

Standing Item: Report on Well Permit Requests in the Santa Monica Subbasin

- The GSA secretary has not been notified of any well permit applications within the Santa Monica Subbasin since the October 15, 2025 meeting.

7B

Status Update on Seawater Intrusion Monitoring Well

7B

Status Update on Seawater Intrusion Monitoring Well

- The United States Geological Survey (USGS) conducted a site visit at the end of 2025 to identify potential locations for the monitoring well.
- Drill site location is based on proximity to the coast, proximity to existing USGS seismic lines, land ownership, and accessibility for drilling, measuring, and maintenance.
- USGS is currently working on a draft scope of work.
- Potential start to drilling in 2 years. Project completion anticipated in a 2.5 to 4 year period.



The logo consists of the text '7C' in white, bold, sans-serif font, centered within a solid blue square. The background of the slide features a dark blue field with a pattern of lighter blue, wavy, concentric lines that resemble topographic map contours.

7C

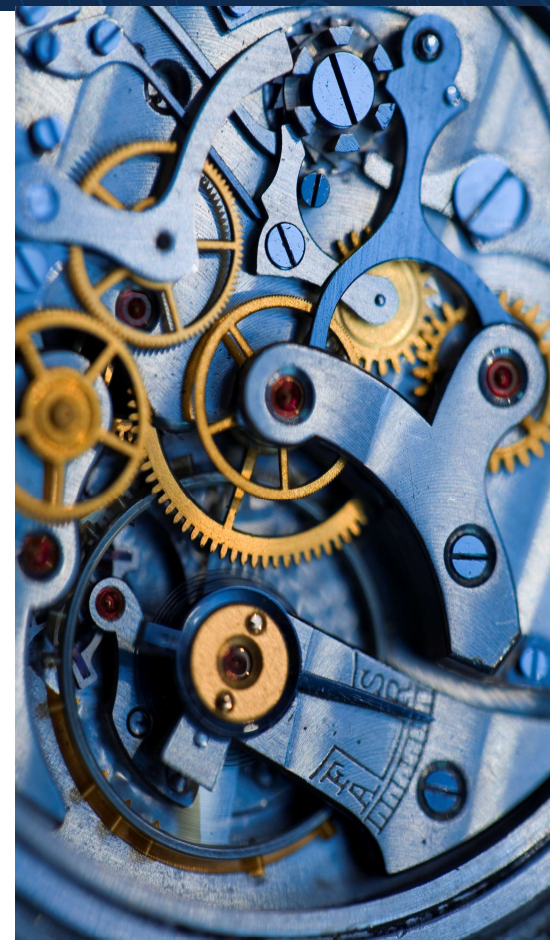
First Periodic Evaluation of the Groundwater Sustainability Plan

7C

Periodic Evaluation Requirements: Technical Components

- Executive Summary
- New Information Collected
- Groundwater Conditions Relative to Sustainable Management Criteria
- Basin Setting Based on New Information or Changes in Water Use
 - *Hydrogeologic Conceptual Model*
 - *Groundwater Conditions*
 - *Water Use Changes and Associated Water Budget*
 - *Model Updates*
- DWR Recommended Corrective Actions
- Status of Projects and Management Actions
- Monitoring Networks

Today's Focus



7C

Periodic Evaluation Requirements: Administrative Components

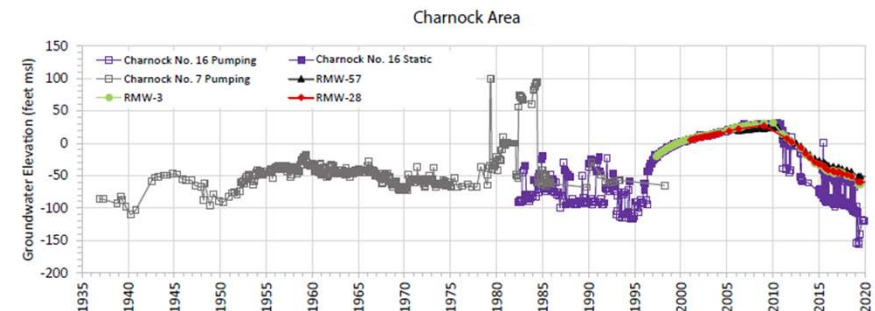
- GSA Authorities And Enforcement Actions
- Outreach, Engagement, And Coordination With Other Agencies
 - *Outreach and Engagement*
 - *Responsibilities of GSA Boards*
 - *Coordination with Other Agencies*
- Other Information
 - *Consideration of Adjacent Basins*
 - *Challenges not Previously Discussed*
- Summary of Proposed or Completed Revisions to Plan Elements



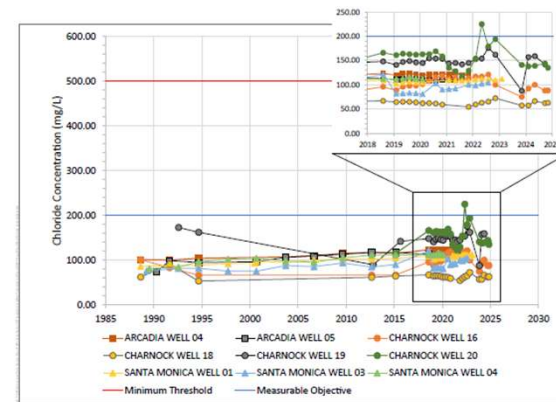
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Periodic Evaluation Requirements: Groundwater Conditions Relative to Sustainable Management Criteria

- Basin-wide groundwater conditions update
 - Annual reporting since the GSP was submitted in 2022
 - Periodic Evaluation focuses on cumulative changes since 2022
 - Conditions are discussed relative to the sustainable management criteria for the sustainability indicators:
 - Groundwater levels,
 - Groundwater in storage,
 - Groundwater quality,
 - Seawater intrusion
 - Land subsidence



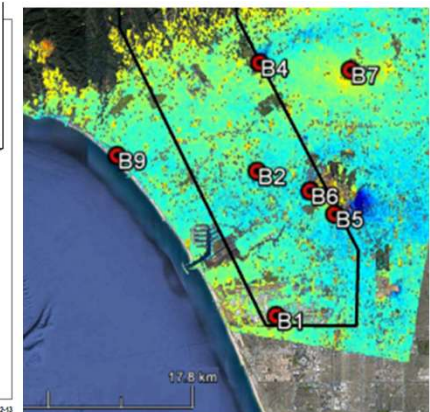
GSP Figure 2-29: Groundwater Elevation Hydrographs



DUDEK

FIGURE 2-13
Chloride Concentration Hydrographs for the Representative Monitoring Points
State of California Department of Water Resources, 2024

2024 Annual Report: Figure 2-13



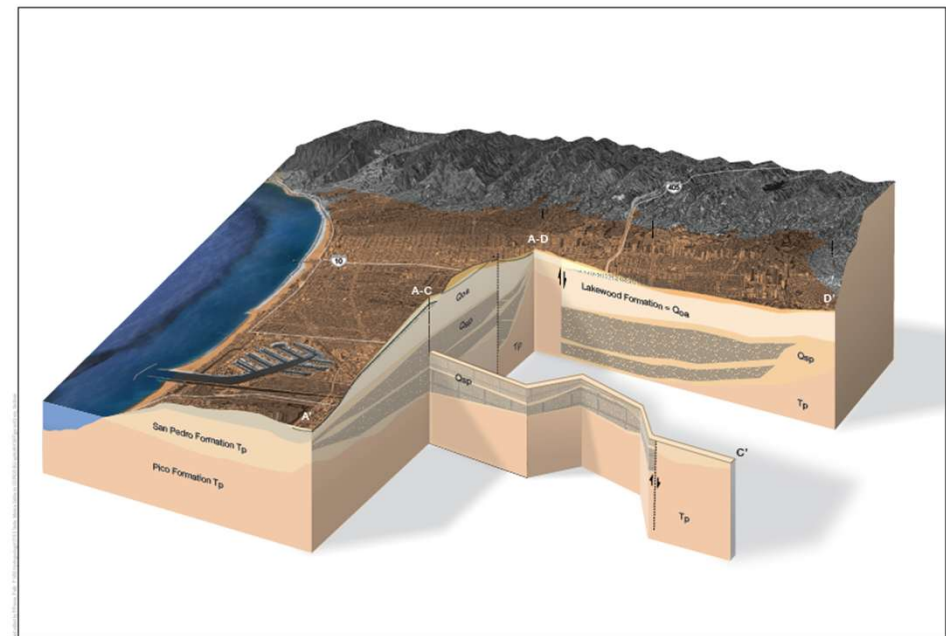
Khorrami et al, 2019:

<https://doi.org/10.3390/rs11040377>

7C

Periodic Evaluation Requirements: Hydrogeologic Conceptual Model

- Summary of new applicable data and analyses related to the hydrogeologic conceptual model
 - Clarification of hydrogeologic conceptual model discussion from the GSP
- Discussion of data gaps and what remains to be filled
 - USGS well work



SOURCE: City of Santa Monica 2018

DUDEK

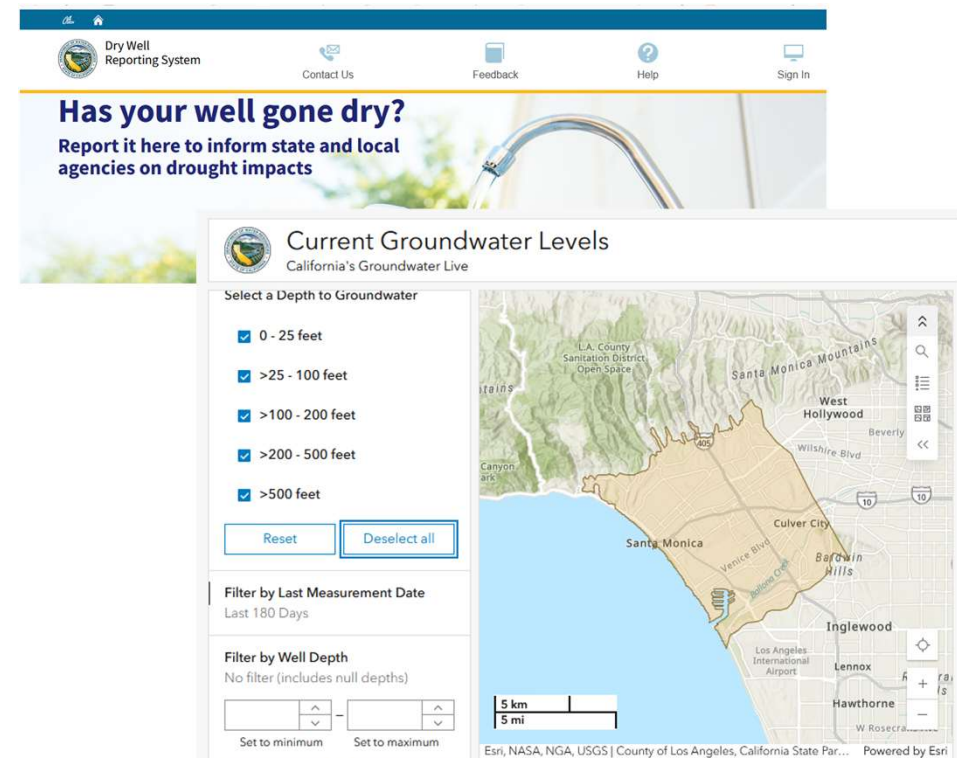
FIGURE 2-22
Geologic Cross Section Block Diagram
Groundwater Sustainability Plan for the Santa Monica Subbasin

GSP Figure 2-22: Geologic Cross Section Diagram

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Periodic Evaluation Requirements: Groundwater Conditions

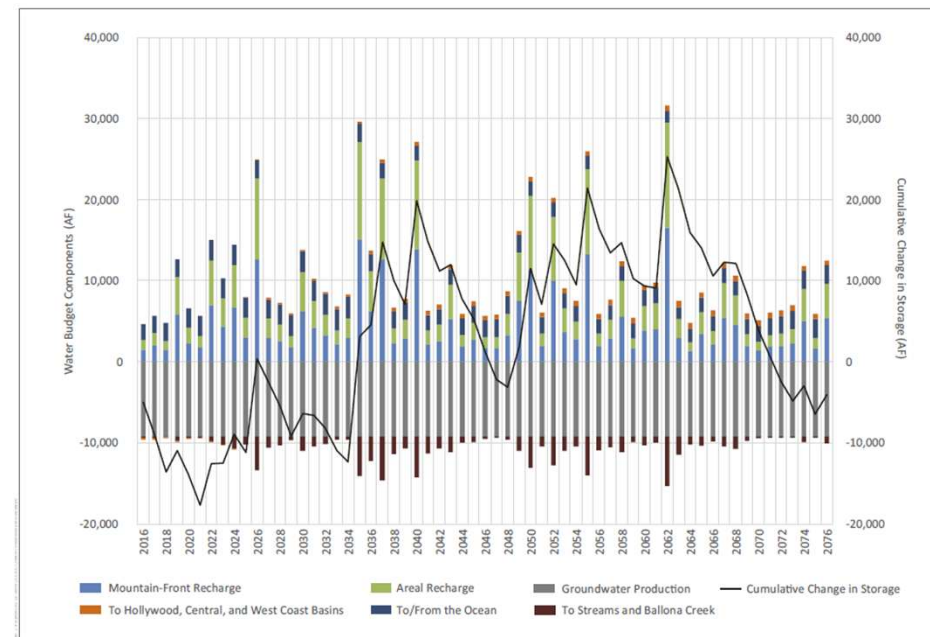
- Focus on new understanding of regional groundwater conditions that impact basin management.
- Discussion includes (if relevant):
 - New sources, applications, or tools
 - Regulatory water quality standard changes that affect sustainable management criteria
 - New constituents of concern / emerging contaminants in the subbasin
 - New information on interconnected surface water and groundwater dependent ecosystems



7C

Periodic Evaluation Requirements: Water Use Changes and Associated Water Budget

- Review data collected since the GSP was prepared
 - Reported groundwater production
 - Describe water use for the evaluation cycle, compared to historical, current, and projected water budgets in GSP.
- Describe changes to land use or cropping patterns that could affect water use.
- Describe whether changes to surface water supply reliability will affect water budget assumptions.
- Query groundwater users in the Subbasin
 - Projected groundwater needs
- Determine whether updates are warranted to the projected water budget



GSP Figure 2-56: Projected Water Budget

7C

Periodic Evaluation Requirements: Model Updates

- Review new work done by USGS
 - Model platform update
 - Grid size in the Santa Monica Subbasin
- Assess differences between GSP and current model version
- Determine whether additional numerical modeling is needed



Prepared in cooperation with the Water Replenishment District of Southern California

Development of a Groundwater-Simulation Model in the Los Angeles Coastal Plain, Los Angeles County, California



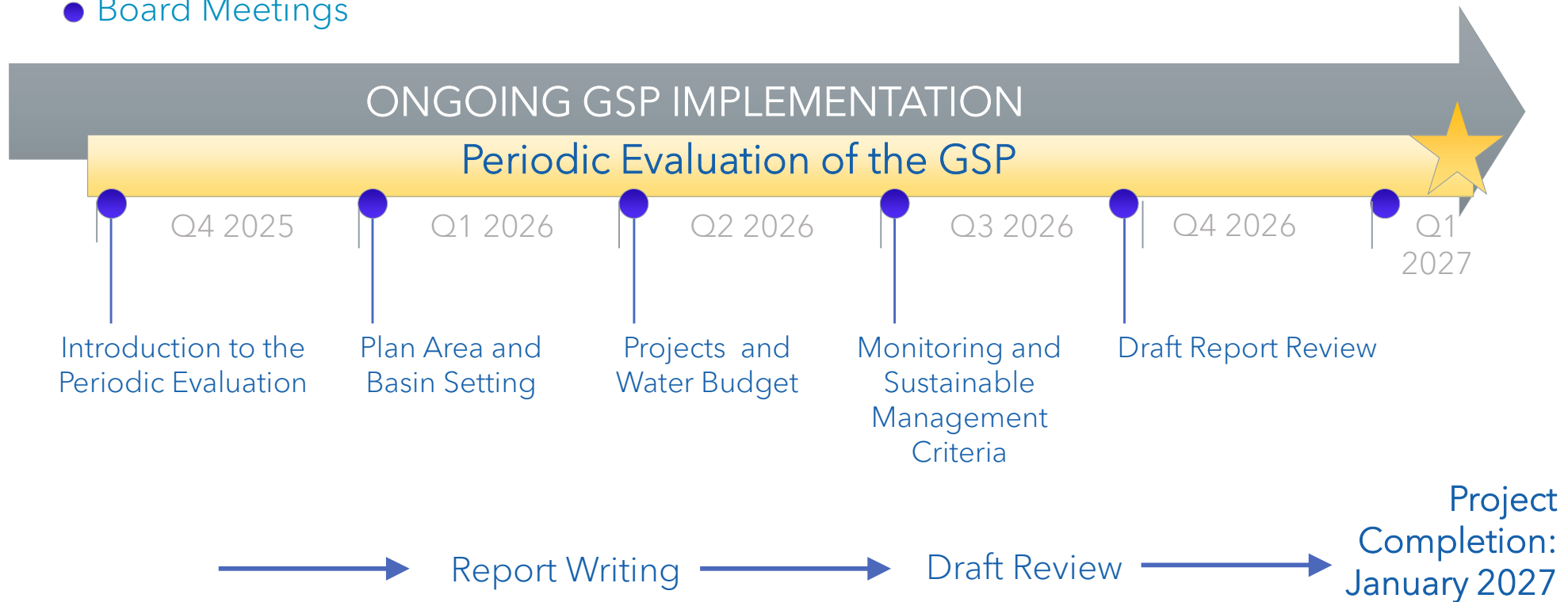
Scientific Investigations Report 2021–5088
Version 1.1, May 2023

U.S. Department of the Interior
U.S. Geological Survey

7C

Timeline

● Board Meetings



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7D

Update from the Alternative Governance Structures Ad-Hoc Subcommittee

8

Solicitation of Items to be
Discussed at the Next
Regular Board Meeting