

Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency

SGMA Educational Items

June 28, 2018

What Makes a Good Monitoring Network?

- What is a monitoring network?
 - Established for each sustainability indicator:
 - Groundwater levels and quality
 - Subsidence
 - Surface water-groundwater interaction
 - Includes monitoring wells, stream gauges, subsidence measurements
 - Will have spatial and temporal components:
 - How many wells and how spread out are they?
 - How frequently are they measured?
 - Able to provide data relative to undesirable results

What Makes a Good Monitoring Network?

- Need to Consider Implementation cost
 - Cost for installation of equipment
 - Annual cost of data collection, analysis, and management
- Use Representative Monitoring
 - Can designate a subset of monitoring sites as representative of conditions in the basin or an area of the basin.

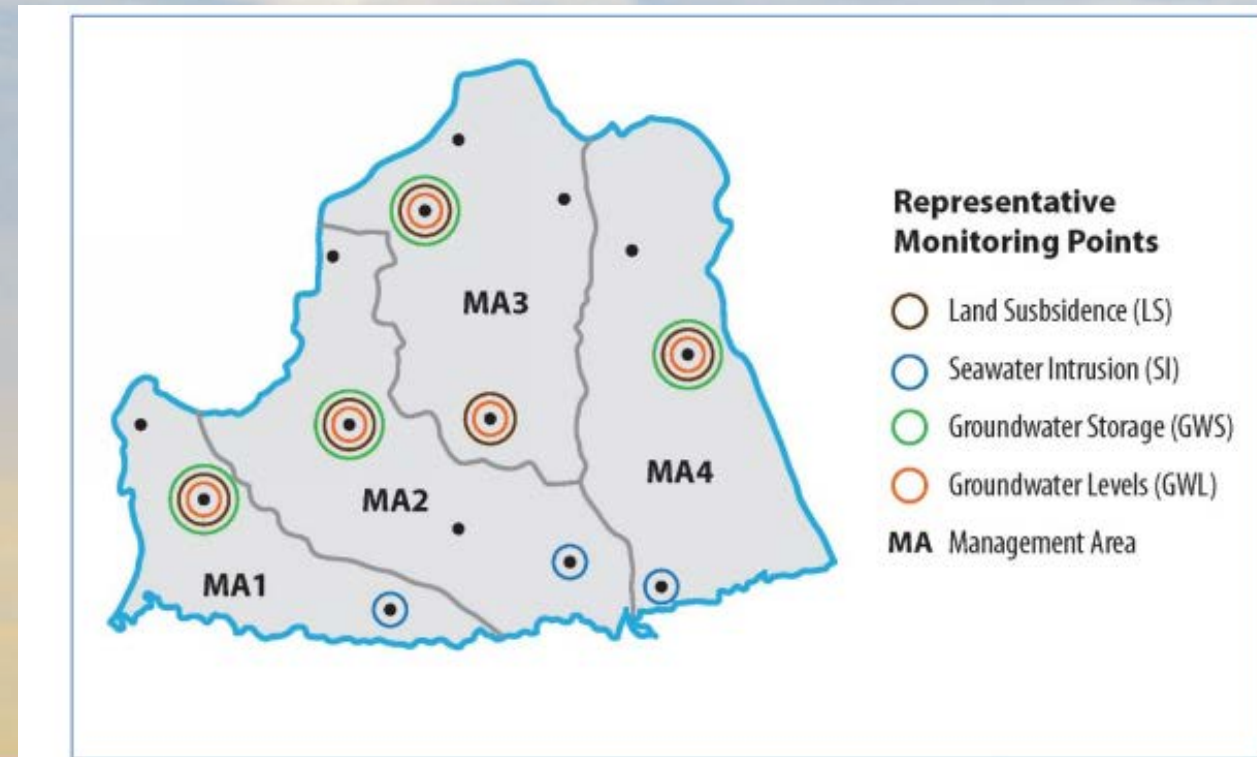


Figure 3: Representative Monitoring Points

What Makes a Good Monitoring Network?

- Characteristics of Good Monitoring Locations
 - Surface flow gauges:
 - Managed and maintained by USGS or CDEC
 - Longer and continuous periods of record
 - Groundwater wells (levels):
 - Have well construction info
 - Longer and continuous periods of record
 - More frequent measurements
 - Depths that are similar to where pumping occurs
 - Groundwater wells (quality):
 - Have well construction info
 - Longer and continuous periods of record
 - More frequent measurements
 - Measured where groundwater is used

What Makes a Good Monitoring Network?

- **Spatial Coverage**
 - Can differ by management area
 - May not be needed where no groundwater use occurs
- **Temporal Coverage**
 - Groundwater Levels: at least twice a year, preferably more
 - Groundwater Quality: at least once a year
 - Surface Flow: daily
 - Subsidence: annually

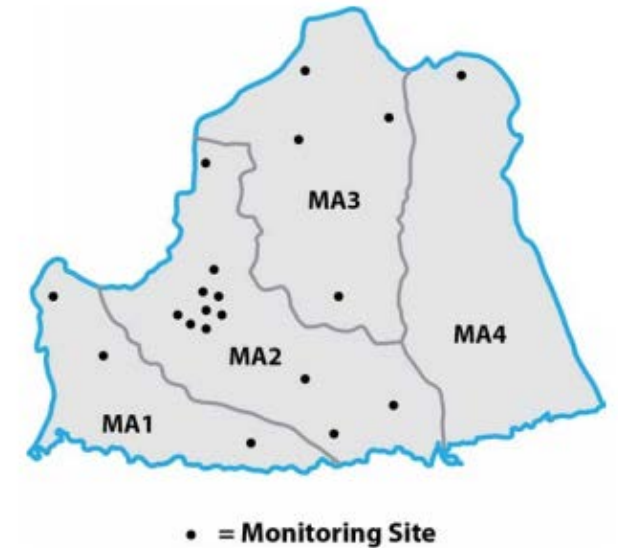


Figure 6. Example Monitoring Network with Spatial Data Gaps

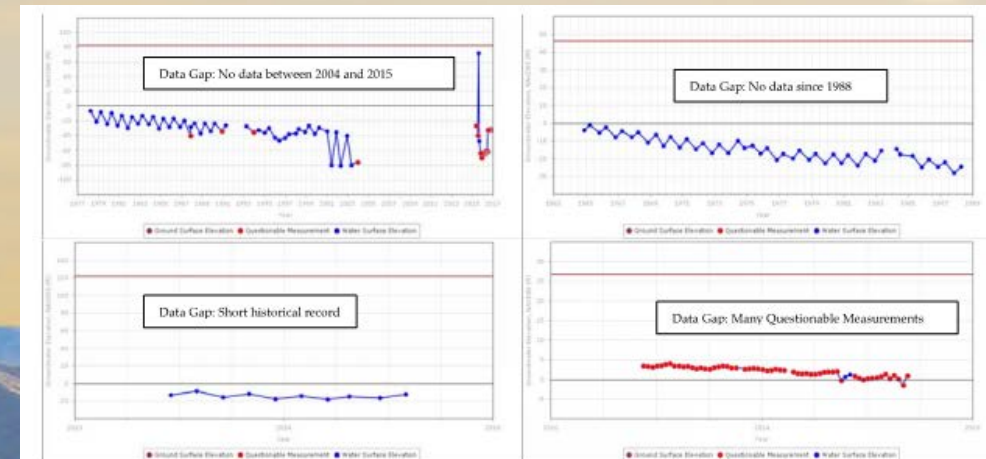


Figure 5. Examples of Hydrographs with Temporal Data Gaps

What Does SGMA Require for Groundwater Quality?

- For Describing Current Groundwater Conditions:
 - In HCM: describe general water quality of principal aquifer
 - In Groundwater Conditions: describe GW quality issues that may affect supply and beneficial uses of groundwater (contaminated sites and plumes)
 - In Monitoring Networks: shall collect sufficient spatial and temporal data to determine water quality for water quality indicators
- How to Select which constituents to manage:
 - Determined by GSA board based on public discussion, data review
 - Consider ability of GSA management activities to influence constituent concentrations
 - Identify constituents considered to be of concern to GSA members that are near MCLs (maximum contaminant levels, set by the CalEPA)
- Establishing Minimal Thresholds for Future Sustainability:
 - Should be based on mapping of current and historical constituent concentrations