San Pasqual Valley (SPV) Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) Community Workshop

Meeting Summary

The following is a summary of the Community Workshop, comments, and questions. This summary reflects the general content and spirit of each discussion point, but is not a verbatim recording.

Date: Wednesday December 10, 2025, at 1 p.m.

Location: Teams

Purpose: Stakeholder Workshop

Attendees:	Public	Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA)
	- Andre Monette - Alicia Ruplinger - Nathan Lacy - Mayra Molina - Christiana Gauger - Kelley List - Chehreh Komeylyan - Laura Hunter - Frank Konyn - Leila - Marissa Potter - Matt Witman - Peter Quinlan	City of San Diego (City) - Andrew Funk - Keli Balo - Christopher Berkoben - Megan Hickey - Sergio Angulo - Sandra Carlson - Nicole DeSantis County of San Diego (County) - Jim Bennett Consultant Team - Rosalyn Prickett (Rincon Consultants) - Lily Momper (Rincon Consultants) - Marisa Earll (INTERA) - Trey Driscoll (INTERA) - Meagan Platt (JPW Communications) - Liana Letsos (JPW Communications)

Welcome and Introductions

Rosalyn Prickett (Rincon Consultant Team) greeted participants as they signed on to Teams. Andrew Funk introduced himself, the City of San Diego team, the project team, and emphasized the importance of stakeholder input throughout the upcoming year. Rincon then went through the agenda.

SGMA Backgrounds & Requirements

Rincon provided an overview of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA), which was signed into law in September 2014 and establishes a statewide framework for managing groundwater sustainably, and a timeline of SPV Basin milestones.

SGMA requires agencies to formally identify themselves as Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) responsible for managing groundwater within a defined basin. GSAs may consist of one or more governmental agencies and are required in medium- and high-priority groundwater basins.

Under SGMA, GSAs are required to develop and implement a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) and demonstrate progress toward sustainability through ongoing reporting and evaluation. This includes submitting Annual Reports and completing evaluations of the GSP every five years. The first Periodic Evaluation of the San Pasqual Valley GSP is expected to be completed by the end of 2026 and submitted in 2027.

DWR Recommendations

Rincon (Lily Momper) summarized key findings from the Department of Water Resources (DWR) approval letter for the San Pasqual Valley Groundwater Sustainability Plan. DWR confirmed the basin is not currently in overdraft and that groundwater levels are stable.

DWR identified several recommended actions for future planning and reporting, including:

- Expanding analysis of impacts to wells and groundwater-dependent ecosystems

- Refining definitions for degraded water quality and interconnected surface waters

- Incorporating forthcoming state guidance on identifying and evaluating interconnected surface waters

- Establishing sustainable management criteria and monitoring for land subsidence, noting that subsidence in the basin remains minimal compared to other regions

- Improving well construction data and documentation of the monitoring network, including ongoing well inventory efforts

Five-Year Periodic Evaluation: Overview and Scope

Rincon provided an overview of the required five-year Periodic Evaluation under SGMA. She explained that the evaluation assesses basin conditions since GSP adoption.

Rincon also provided an overview of work completed since GSP adoption, including progress on corrective actions and a summary of planned work.

Groundwater Model Overview

INTERA (Marisa Earll) provided an overview of groundwater modeling efforts that will support the five-year Periodic Evaluation, as required by SGMA and the Department of Water Resources (DWR).

INTERA explained that the groundwater model integrates basin data, including geology, land use, groundwater levels, and climate conditions, into a single framework to evaluate how the basin responds over time. The model is used to assess sustainability and forecast future groundwater conditions.

INTERA will incorporate approximately five years of newly collected data into the model and validate its ability to accurately simulate current basin conditions. Model updates, validation steps, and assumptions will be fully documented as part of the Periodic Evaluation.

INTERA described planned updates to future model scenarios. The existing forecast will be updated to simulate groundwater conditions from 2020 through 2070. Additional climate scenarios may also be evaluated and included as part of the Periodic Evaluation.

Key metrics will be reevaluated, including sustainable yield, water budgets, projected groundwater levels, and the potential onset of undesirable results. Future groundwater level projections will be compared against Sustainable Management Criteria (SMCs) and Minimum Thresholds.

Public Questions and Responses

Uncertainty in Projections

Question: Will uncertainty be quantified and potentially expressed using error bars?

Response: The project team will evaluate uncertainty using residuals between simulated and observed groundwater and stream levels. Results will be presented in tabular format consistent with prior analyses. INTERA responded that the feasibility of expressing uncertainty using error ranges (e.g., ±20–25%) will be evaluated.

Model Update Timeframe

Question: Can the model update extend through December 2025, particularly given dry-year conditions and data availability?

Response: Current model updates include data through the end of 2024. Incorporation of 2025 data may be considered but would require additional data requests and evaluation of available resources.

Groundwater-Dependent Ecosystems (GDEs) and Climate Stress

Question: How will the model reflect potential stress on groundwater-dependent vegetation under hotter, drier climate conditions?

Response: Staff explained that prior GDE studies were largely desktop-based, while the current effort applies a more detailed, higher-resolution approach. This includes integrating updated groundwater elevation data, satellite-based

vegetation analysis, expanded monitoring, and planned field verification with biologists. Refined GDE mapping will be compared with future groundwater model simulations to evaluate potential impacts and inform management actions.

Model Validation and Management Response

Question: Will the model be validated regularly, and are response measures available before the next five-year evaluation?
Response: Major model updates are anticipated during periodic evaluations, while model outputs may support annual reporting. Project and Management Action (PMA) tiers and triggers provide mechanisms for management response if thresholds are exceeded.

Groundwater Quality

Question: How is groundwater quality incorporated into the evaluation?
Response: Groundwater quality sampling occurs in spring and fall and is reported through Annual Reports. Groundwater quality is included as part of the ongoing evaluation and reporting framework.

Next Steps and Closing Remarks

The project team noted that participants expressed a preference for hybrid workshops that would allow both in-person and virtual participation. Stakeholders were encouraged to sign up for email updates, monitor the project website for posted materials, and share suggested topics for future workshops.

The project team will continue advancing the five-year Periodic Evaluation, including data compilation, modeling and analysis, and preparation for upcoming quarterly workshops. Planned workshop topics include hydrographs, data review, groundwater modeling results, and overall evaluation findings. Ongoing work will also include continued planning and implementation of groundwater-dependent ecosystem fieldwork, including field verification scheduled for January 2026, and evaluation of the feasibility of incorporating 2025 data into modeling efforts.