

## DRAFT TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM SUMMARY

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**DATE:** May 7, 2021 **PROJECT #:** 9090.0701

**TO:** Ad Hoc Sustainable Groundwater Planning Advisory Committee (GSU22 Committee)

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**PROJECT:** Basin Management Plan: Groundwater Sustainability Update 2022 (GSU22)

**SUBJECT:** Summary of Proposed Sustainable Management Criteria for Chronic Lowering of Groundwater Levels

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The following paragraphs summarize proposed sustainable management criteria (SMC) for chronic lowering of groundwater levels (GWL) in the Pajaro Valley Subbasin (Pajaro Valley Basin or Basin).

### **Statement of Significant and Unreasonable Conditions**

The proposed Basin statement of significant and unreasonable conditions for chronic lowering of groundwater levels is:

*Significant and unreasonable chronic lowering of groundwater levels occurs when groundwater levels decline such that there is a long-term reduction in groundwater supply for domestic, agricultural, or municipal use.*

### **Minimum Thresholds**

The Minimum Threshold (MT) for GWL is the average of the 2 lowest annual minimum groundwater elevations from water year (WY) 2000-2020.

### **Undesirable Results**

An Undesirable Result for GWL occurs when any of the following occurs in either the area within 1,000 feet of the Delivered Water Zone or in the area outside 1,000 feet of the Delivered Water Zone (Figure 1):

1. More than **15%** of Representative Monitoring Points (RMPs) experience a drop in groundwater elevations below MT during **4 out of 5 consecutive years**, or
2. More than **20%** of RMPs experience a drop in groundwater elevations below MT during **3 out of 5 consecutive years**, or
3. More than **25%** of RMPs experience a drop in groundwater elevations below MT during **2 out of 5 consecutive years**.

### **Measurable Objectives**

The Measurable Objective (MO) for GWL is the average of 2016-2020 spring (March-May) groundwater measurements, plus the projected rise in average spring elevations between 2015-2018 and 2035-2040 as simulated by the Pajaro Valley Hydrologic Model (PVHM) in simulations of the Basin Management Plan (BMP) Update.

### **Interim Milestones**

Proposed interim milestone groundwater levels incorporate increases simulated by the PVHM for the BMP Update over the following time frames are:

- **2025 Interim Milestone:** The average of 2016-2020 spring groundwater elevations plus simulated average recovery in spring groundwater elevations between 2015-2018 and 2020-2025.
- **2030 Interim Milestone:** The average of 2016-2020 spring groundwater elevations plus simulated average recovery in spring groundwater elevations between 2015-2018 and 2025-2030.
- **2035 Interim Milestone:** The average of 2016-2020 spring groundwater elevations plus simulated average recovery in spring groundwater elevations between 2015-2018 and 2030-2035.

