

## North Sacramento River Corridor

# Joint Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) Evaluation



### Highlights & Coordination Priorities

Vina, Butte, Colusa, Corning, Los Molinos, Red Bluff Subbasins

## Purpose of the Joint GSP Evaluation

Led by Butte County with Department of Water Resources (DWR) Sustainable Groundwater Management grant program funding for the Vina and Wyandotte Creek Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs).

Goal: Build a shared understanding of conditions and management approaches at subbasin boundaries to:

- Support 2027 GSP Periodic Evaluations (PEs).
- Identify differences in Sustainable Management Criteria (SMC) that could affect neighboring subbasins.
- Encourage proactive coordination to prevent cross-boundary impacts.

## Why Inter-Basin Coordination Matters

- Hydrologically connected subbasins – groundwater moves freely across boundaries, influenced by pumping, recharge, and surface water interactions (ex., Sacramento River).
- SGMA requirement: Policies in one subbasin cannot prevent a neighboring subbasin from achieving sustainability.
- DWR will review:
  - Relevant inter-basin coordination efforts.
  - Alignment of thresholds and objectives across boundaries.
  - Potential impacts to or from adjacent subbasins.

## Recommended Coordination Actions Before 2027



**Review and Discuss Monitoring Networks:** focus on shared boundaries; identify gaps in groundwater level, water quality, and subsidence data.



**Address SMC Differences at Boundaries:** neighbor-to-neighbor discussion of Minimum Threshold (MT) /Measurable Objective (MO) differences, especially where differences exceed 25–60 feet.



**Coordinate on shared Recommended Corrective Actions (RCAs):** all subbasins have RCAs on groundwater levels, land subsidence, and interconnected surface water.



**Strengthen Water Quality Coordination:** standardize salinity indicators where possible; share information on approach to coordination with other programs.



**Prepare for Model-Based Boundary Flow Analysis:** discuss use of models and coordinate on use of shared tools when possible.



**Focus regional collaboration on interconnected surface water, where all subbasins received RCAs:** a regional approach is strongly recommended once DWR issues guidance (expected in late 2025).

## Why This Matters Now

First Periodic Evaluations are due January 2027.

Early coordination will:

- Reduce the risk of DWR-required revisions.
- Build a stronger case for regional collaboration.
- Reduce technical analysis costs of individual subbasins.
- Support consistent, defensible management decisions across the Northern Sacramento Valley.
- Provides opportunities for GSAs to learn from one another, such as what worked/did not work, etc., creating regional efficiencies as GSAs work through future Periodic Evaluations and GSP implementation.

