

Chapter-by-Chapter Discussion of Draft Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP)

SHAC Recommendations on draft GSP

Christina Buck, PhD
Assistant Director
Butte County Water and Resource Conservation

Vina Stakeholder Advisory Committee
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Important to Note:

1. Today is an opportunity for SHAC to weigh in on any outstanding topics of the draft GSP and to provide **SHAC recommendations** to the Vina GSA Board
2. Today is also the Public Comment Period Deadline, Midnight - SHAC members can submit public comments as individuals

Where we are and where we're going...

- Public comments due TODAY, mid-night
- Today's SHAC meeting: SHAC comments/recommendations on GSP

Next:

- SHAC meets on November 4 to consider
 1. Public Comments
 2. Staff revisions
 3. SHAC recommendations from 10/19 (today!)
 - Provide final recommendations on GSP to Vina GSA
- Joint meeting of Vina and RCRD GSA Boards on November 15th: Public Hearing and Boards to give direction on revisions to GSP
- December 15- GSA Boards consider adoption of GSP

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Today's Agenda Topic

- Brief overview of Chapters with key themes highlighted
- Topics identified for possible SHAC discussion/recommendations
- SHAC members can raise other topics for SHAC to weigh in on

Ch. 1 Plan Area and Ch. 2 Basin Setting

Key Themes:

- Importance of inter-basin coordination with regards to monitoring and water budgets, modeling tools, cross sections
- AEM and well log data should be utilized to the maximum extent possible

Ch. 3 Sustainable Management Criteria and Ch. 4 Monitoring Network

Key Themes:

- ▶ Groundwater Level Minimum Threshold (MT) is too low
- ▶ Groundwater Level Measurable Objective (MO) is too low
- ▶ Weak justification for how the MT is set coincident with where “undesirable results would begin to occur”
- ▶ Importance of shallow groundwater and its role for GDEs, Chico Urban Forest

Ch.5 Projects and Management Actions

Key Themes:

- Concerns about ownership of recharged water (aka legal implications of recharge)
- Preference by some to emphasize conservation as key strategy and prioritize projects accordingly
- Concern about timing of projects- some of these could take years

Ch. 6 Implementation

Key Themes:

- Lack of clarity as to when the GSA will take action (i.e. what groundwater level conditions will spur on what type of action (projects or policies) by the GSAs?)

Staff identified the following for possible SHAC discussion/input:

1. Consideration of Groundwater Level Measurable Objective Alternatives
→ SHAC recommendation on direction to pursue
2. Potential New Management Action: Interim Milestone Action Plan (IMAP)
→ SHAC input/recommendation on potential content
3. Paragraph in Implementation Chapter
→ SHAC recommendation on revisions

Topics the SHAC would like to discuss?

Measurable Objective for Groundwater Levels



Lowering of GW Levels

Currently: “Groundwater level based on groundwater trend line for dry periods (since 2000) of observed short-term climatic cycles extended to 2030.”

Conceptual Alternatives:

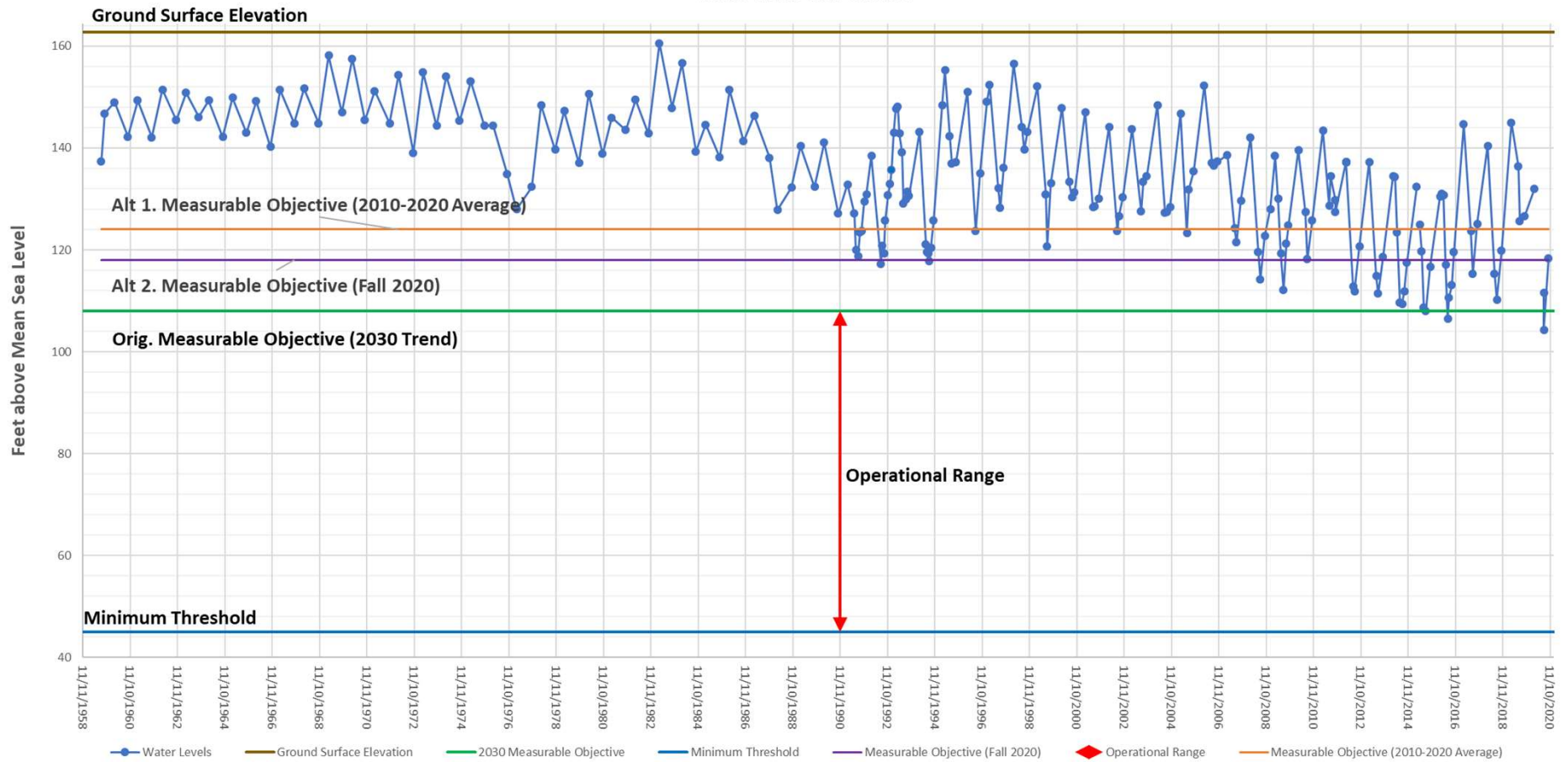
1. Average available historical groundwater levels from 2010-2020
2. Fall 2020 groundwater level

SHAC Recommendation?

Example

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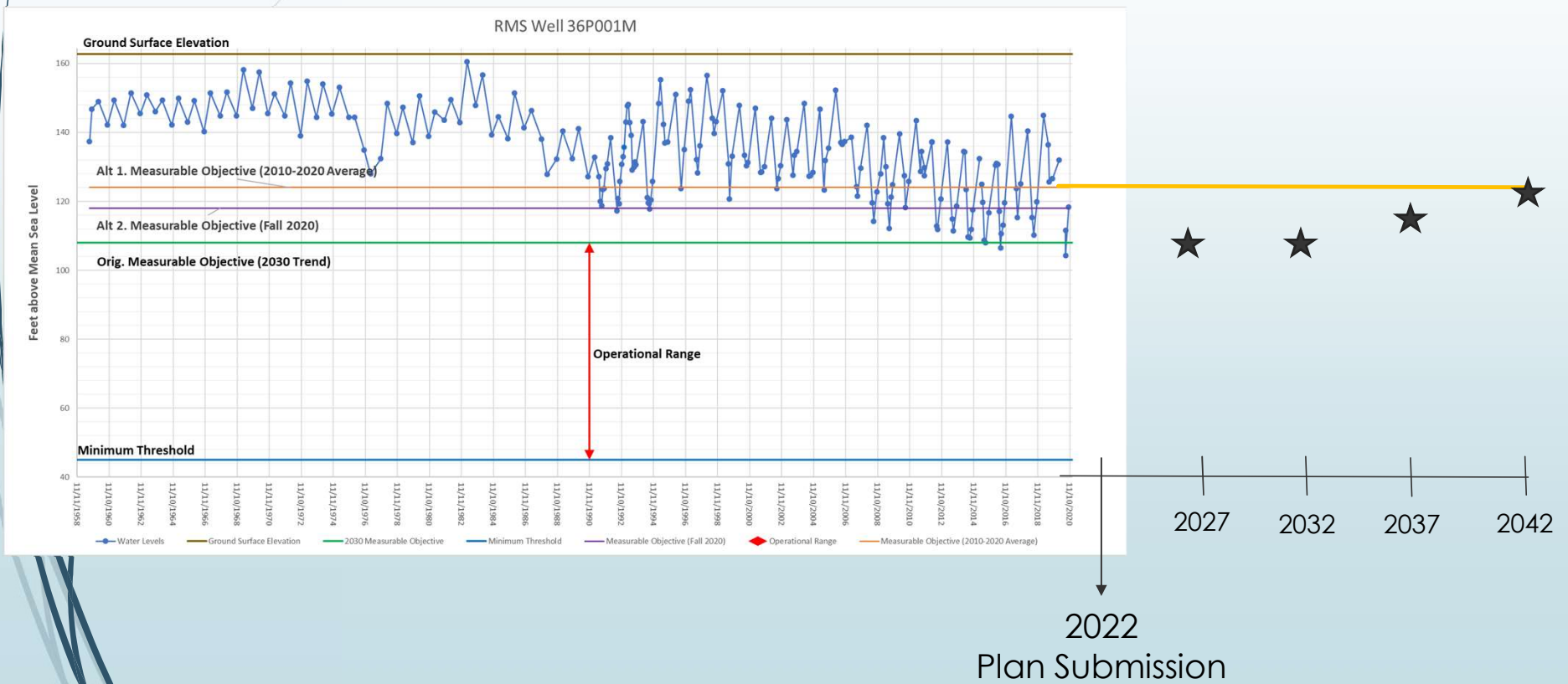
RMS Well 36P001M



Example

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★ Interim Milestone



PMA Chapter: Proposed Management Action

Interim Milestone Action Plan

- ▶ IM is a target value representing measurable groundwater conditions in increments of five years to demonstrate progress towards sustainability
 - ▶ Show how the GSAs anticipate moving from a downward trending condition to an upward trending condition
- ▶ The Action Plan would identify:
 - ▶ Local Triggers:
 - ▶ Determine conditions that trigger the implementation of specific PMAs that address each SI
 - ▶ X number of multiple dry year conditions,
 - ▶ Project: Establish a reporting system (for dry wells, sediment in wells etc.)
 - ▶ Projects and Actions:
 - ▶ Implementation of specific PMAs (with description of the MO that will benefit and move toward upward trending IM condition)
 - ▶ Short-term projects vs. long-term projects
 - ▶ “Emergency” Drought response, i.e., drought
 - ▶ County / GSA collaboration and interface during drought/emergency response (i.e. participate in BC-DTF)

SHAC Input/Recommendation?

PMA Chapter: Paragraph in Section 5.1

Revisions received from Vina GSA and RCRD GSA Counsel

Section 5.1:

“The objective and purpose of the GSP is to achieve groundwater sustainability in the Vina Subbasin. *This will require projects and management actions aimed at avoiding undesirable results, achieving measurable objectives, and responding to changing conditions in the basin. This will require projects aimed at increasing water supplies and decreasing groundwater dependence, as well as management actions designed to reduce groundwater demand.* The Vina GSA and the RCRD GSA have identified projects and management actions tailored to benefit the Vina Subbasin's groundwater supply and quality for the benefit of rural areas, communities, agricultural users and the environment. The approach targets both *identifying and* increasing *alternative sources of* supply and reducing *groundwater* demand. The GSP identifies groundwater monitoring programs to monitor groundwater conditions, investigation of additional water sources to supplement the use of groundwater, and conservation and educational programs to reduce groundwater demand.

SHAC Recommendation?