

Periodic Review and Assessment of the Indian Wells Valley Basin 2020 Groundwater Sustainability Plan

February 12, 2025

2025 Periodic Evaluation

- Serves as a thorough assessment of how the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) is performing, modifications made along the way, and whether amendments are necessary
 - The Periodic Evaluation determines and leads to amendments to the GSP, if needed
 - Must address Recommended Corrective Actions (RCAs)
- Due at least every 5 years from the submittal of initial GSP and every time a GSP amendment is made
 - Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) requires Department of Water Resources (DWR) to issue assessment of its Periodic Reviews at least every 5 years

2025 Periodic Evaluation

- Outline of document provided in DWR guidelines:
 - Executive Summary
 - New Information Collected
 - Groundwater Conditions relative to Sustainable Management Criteria
 - Status of Projects and Management Actions
 - Basin Setting Based on New Information or Changes in Water Use
 - Monitoring Networks
 - GSA Authorities and Enforcement Actions
 - Outreach, Engagement, and Coordination with Other Agencies
 - **Summary of Proposed or Completed Revisions to Plan Elements**

Plan Amendment

- Process to amend the GSP if deemed necessary by the Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA)
 - There is no requirement to update the GSP every 5 years
 - All amendments to GSP are at the discretion of the GSA
 - All amendments to GSP are limited to items that the Periodic Evaluation shows need to be modified
 - Regulatory requirements must still be followed when a Plan Amendment is submitted
- Submittal Requirements:
 - Must follow public noticing requirements, be adopted by the board, and submitted to DWR for review
 - Must be accompanied with a Periodic Evaluation

IWVGA Activities

This Periodic Evaluation has reviewed and assessed the IWVGA's efforts and activities in the implementation of the GSP:

- Evaluation of Recycled Water Projects
 - Title XVI Feasibility Study
- Imported Water Project development
 - Surface Percolation Replenishment Study
 - 60% design complete
 - Final Environmental Initial Study complete
 - Draft ROW Acquisition Plan complete
 - Project authorized for \$50 million in funding under the 2024 Water Resources Development Act (WRDA-24)
- Continued and establishment of data collection and monitoring
 - Water quality baseline sampling
 - Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems (GDEs) monitoring

IWVGA Activities

This Periodic Evaluation has reviewed and assessed the IWVGA's efforts and activities in the implementation of the GSP:

- Evaluation of hydrogeologic data and updates to the Hydrogeologic Conceptual Model (HCM)
 - Water quality analysis
 - Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) Releases
 - Surface Percolation Replenishment Study
 - Rose Valley monitoring wells
 - El Paso monitoring well
 - GDE Monitoring wells
 - AEM data
 - Pumping tests

IWVGA Activities

This Periodic Evaluation has reviewed and assessed the IWVGA's efforts and activities in the implementation of the GSP:

- Configuration Management Plan – Basin Model Update
 - Technical Modeling Group (TMG) input for reviewing new data for incorporation and updates to basin model
 - Model domain refined
 - 3D Clay layer
 - Inclusion of additional faults
 - Bare soil evaporation and evapotranspiration (EVT) separately simulated
 - Several scenarios modeled
 - Baseline
 - Implementation
 - No GA
 - EVT Study

IWVGA Activities

- DWR Recommended Corrective Actions (RCAs) have been addressed

RCA #	Description
1	• The IWVGA's ongoing communication elements and process for stakeholder engagement in its Communication and Engagement Plan should be discussed further.
2	• Develop the IWVGA's understanding of the Basin through investigation of hydraulic connectivity and filling in data gaps identified in the 2020 GSP. • The IWVGA should reassess monitoring networks based on new Basin data and understanding of Basin conditions and characteristics.
3	• Update water budgets to include new information and finalized imported water volumes. • Elaborate upon the Imported Water and Recycled Water Projects and predicted volumes of recharge. • Additionally, climate change projections should be revised based on new data.
4	• The IWVGA should investigate Projects and Management Actions capable of eliminating perpetual overdraft beyond the fifty-year planning and implementation period. • Additionally, the GSP should be amended with updated timelines of its Projects and Management Actions and a Contingency Plan.
5	• Identify undesirable results for each sustainability indicator. • Provide updates to SMCs based on new data and information, in Annual Reports and GSP Amendments.
6	• Establish SMCs at all Representative Monitoring Sites for degraded water quality.
7	• The IWVGA's data management system (DMS) should be updated to reflect complete and accurate data, consistent with Annual Reports and any updates to the GSP.

Periodic Evaluation Summary

- The Periodic Assessment has determined that amendments to the 2020 GSP are not necessary
- An assessment of new information and progress toward sustainability has determined
 - Sustainable Yield is the same at 7,650 AFY.
 - Approach for establishing Sustainability Management Criteria (SMCs) remains the same
 - Further monitoring of GDEs needed to evaluate impacts
 - Relevance of 2020 GSP Projects and Management Actions
 - Separate management of the El Paso Subarea is not required

Periodic Evaluation

- The Periodic Assessment Includes:
 - Establishment of groundwater quality SMCs
 - Revised HCM and Basin Model
 - Revised Water budgets
 - Updated with 2025 Basin Model
 - EVT and bare soil evaporation separately simulated
 - Revised Implementation approach
 - Imported Water Project established
 - Pursuit of Recycled Water Project on hold
 - Second Transient Pool to be developed
 - Revised timetables and descriptions to Projects and Management Actions

Periodic Evaluation

- Contingency Plan

- The IWVGA does not have the authority to regulate a groundwater producer that could utilize the majority of the Sustainable Yield of the Basin
 - Navy's reported FRWR of 6,503 AFY
- Without the Imported Water Project, the sustainability goal of the Basin and mission at NAWS China Lake will not be met
 - To try and address RCA #4, IWVGA may implement extreme conservation to reduce groundwater production to just meet health and safety requirements and reexamine potential implementation of Recycled Water Project

Additional Data

- The Periodic Evaluation process has utilized new data and information collected since adoption of the GSP in January 2020 to evaluate the implementation progress and determine if amendments to the GSP are necessary
- The IWVGA has provided opportunities for stakeholders, interested parties, and members of the public to provide any new data and additional projects and management actions for implementation in the preparation of the Periodic Evaluation

Additional Data

- There have been references to new, significant data and projects and management developments which have not been provided and have not been included in the Periodic Evaluation:
 - New Basin Model
 - LADWP Banking Project

Challenges Encountered

- Groundwater adjudication filed by Indian Wells Valley Water District (IWVWD)
 - Revised HCM and Basin Model have not been included in the Periodic Evaluation
 - Jeopardizes Congressional authorization of Imported Water Project
 - Constrains the timeline available to secure appropriations for the Imported Water Project
 - Risks loss of short-term and long-term water supplies
 - Litigation costs affect payment of water rates/fees

Accessing Guidelines

- [Guide to Annual Reports, Periodic Evaluations, & Plan Amendments](#)
 - <https://water.ca.gov/-/media/DWR-Website/Web-Pages/Programs/Groundwater-Management/Sustainable-Groundwater-Management/Best-Management-Practices-and-Guidance-Documents/Files/GSP-Implementation-Guidance-Report.pdf>
- [Guidelines FAQ](#)
 - <https://water.ca.gov/-/media/DWR-Website/Web-Pages/Programs/Groundwater-Management/Sustainable-Groundwater-Management/Best-Management-Practices-and-Guidance-Documents/Files/GSP-Implementation-Guidance-Report-FAQ.pdf>