

Tentative GSP Process and Schedule
Approved by the Big Valley Groundwater Basin Advisory Committee
(BVAC) on December 2, 2020

This document is intended to reiterate the tentative process for considering Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) content as it is drafted (versus waiting for the entire draft GSP to be prepared) and to propose a revised Big Valley Groundwater Basin Advisory Committee (BVAC) regular meeting schedule. Meetings of the BVAC serve as a forum for public comment and involvement in the GSP process. Developing the GSP will take an incremental approach, with multiple opportunities for dialog and comment. The following process is anticipated:

Introduction of new content

- New “Public Draft Chapters” will be presented at BVAC meetings. To the greatest extent possible, content and documents that are included in meeting packets will be posted on the BigValleyGSP.org website in advance of the corresponding meeting, and will be publicly available prior to the meeting in the offices of the Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs).
- Presentations or information not available prior to the meeting will typically be posted to the website after the meeting.
- Available meeting materials will be posted to the calendar date for the respective meeting on the project website. As the process evolves, other folders may be created on the website to help organize and locate materials.

Immediate opportunities for input and dialog

- At BVAC meetings, BVAC members can provide initial responses to new Public Draft Chapters, including:
 - Questions for clarification
 - Comments and suggestions
 - Direction to staff
- Members of the community are also encouraged to provide input at the BVAC meetings.
- Public Draft Chapters will have line numbers, making it easier to reference specific text.

Follow-up opportunities for input

- BVAC members and public can continue to submit comments on a Public Draft Chapter after the BVAC meeting to be incorporated into the “Revised Draft Chapter” prior to the next meeting.

After initial review, comment, and revision by the BVAC, each Revised Draft Chapter of the GSP will be temporarily “set aside” until the entire document is assembled. Once set aside, further discussion will generally not occur for that Chapter until the entire Draft GSP is prepared. Comments may be submitted after the identified period for each Public Draft Chapter, but it is requested that comments be submitted during the identified review period to improve the ability of staff and the BVAC to respond while that particular Chapter is being discussed. Comments submitted outside this review period may not be addressed until the entire Draft GSP document is assembled (after the BVAC has considered all individual Chapters). The BVAC will not make a final recommendation to the two GSAs until the entire Draft GSP is prepared. The BVAC has already “set aside” chapters one through five. Again, any comments that were submitted (or may

be submitted in the future) after the chapters were “set aside” will be considered once the entire draft GSP is prepared, prior to making a recommendation to the GSAs.

The dates indicated below are tentative. This schedule does not introduce all of the content that will be presented for any particular BVAC meeting. The intent of this document is to list, as accurately as possible, specific dates when it is anticipated that the various chapters of the GSP will be presented to the BVAC and public. This tentative schedule will be updated/confirmed as necessary.

The bold dates indicate regularly scheduled BVAC meetings. Dates presented in italics at the end of this document after the dashed line describe the steps required after BVAC involvement (i.e. after the BVAC has made a recommendation to the two GSAs).

The last section of this document provides “notes” that further explain the proposed review process and schedule.

December 2, 2020 – Present Revised Draft Chapter 6 for BVAC to set aside

January 13, 2020 – Public outreach meeting conducted by GSA staff (not a BVAC meeting)

February 3, 2021 – Introduce Public Draft Chapters 7 (*Sustainable Management Criteria*) and Chapter 8 (*Monitoring Networks*); Start comment period for Public Draft Chapters 7 and 8

March 3, 2021 – Special meeting to discuss revisions to Chapters 7 and 8. End of comment period for Public Drafts Chapters 7 and 8; begin incorporation of comments for Public Draft Chapters 7 and 8.

April 7, 2021 – Present Revised Drafts Chapters 7 and 8 for BVAC to set aside; Introduce Public Draft Chapter 9 (*Projects and Management Actions*); Start comment period for Public Draft Chapter 9

May 5, 2021 – Special meeting to discuss revisions to Chapters 9 and introduce Public Draft Chapter 10 (*Implementation Plan*); End of comment period for Public Draft Chapter 9; incorporate comments for Public Draft Chapter 9

June 2, 2021 – Present Revised Draft Chapters 9 and 10 for BVAC to set aside; Introduce Public Draft Chapters 11-13 (*Implementation Plan, Notice and Communications, Interagency Agreements, & Reference List*); Start comment period for Public Draft Chapters 11-13

July 7, 2021 – End of comment period for Public Draft Chapters 11-13; begin incorporation of comments for Public Draft Chapters 11-13; *special meeting if necessary*

August 4, 2021 – Present Revised Draft Chapters 11-13 for BVAC to set aside; Introduce Public Draft of Entire GSP; Start comment period for Public Draft of Entire GSP

September 1, 2021 – *special meeting if necessary*

October 6, 2021 – Present Revised Draft of Entire GSP; **BVAC vote to recommend approval of “Draft GSP” (all Revised Draft Chapters) to GSAs**

November 3, 2021 – *special meeting if necessary*

December 1, 2021 – *special meeting if necessary*

The GSA meeting dates proposed below are hypothetical, as they have not been approved by the GSAs. The dates are intended to present possible meeting dates, recognizing that the approved “Final GSP” must be submitted to the DWR by January 31, 2022.

August 25, 2021 - GSA staff release a “Notice of Intent to Adopt the Big Valley Groundwater Basin Groundwater Sustainability Plan;” initiate a 60 day public comment period (through October 26, 2021); and schedule the public hearings for adoption of the GSP by the GSAs for December 14, 2021 (no sooner than 90 days from release of the Notice).

October 26, 2021 – The Draft GSP will be presented to the two GSAs to receive the recommendation of the BVAC pursuant to the MOU, receive public comment and provide direction to staff.

December 14, 2021 – Conduct public hearings for approval of the Final GSP by both GSAs and direction to submit the Final GSP to the Department of Water Resources (DWR) by the **January 31, 2022** deadline.

NOTES:

- If the BVAC determines it is necessary, a special meeting could be conducted between any regularly scheduled (every other month) BVAC meeting.
- The schedule above allows two months for each Chapter, including Chapters identified as requiring high input from stakeholders (i.e. *Sustainable Management Criteria, Projects and Management Actions*), in order to align with regularly scheduled BVAC meetings. It is anticipated that some components of the GSP, especially more complex information and components related to the abovementioned Chapters, will be discussed at meetings prior to the date on which the associated Chapter is fully prepared and formally introduced. For example, monitoring has been discussed prior to introduction of the associated Chapter. Additionally, it is anticipated that Sustainability Indicators and Undesirable Results will be discussed before full assembly and introduction of the associated chapter. This schedule references only the progression of the review of the individual Chapters of the GSP. In actuality, it is anticipated that additional information and discussion will occur at each BVAC meeting. Those interested should consult the pertinent agenda.