

EKI TECHNICAL PRESENTATION #19

WHITE WOLF GSA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

7 JUNE 2022



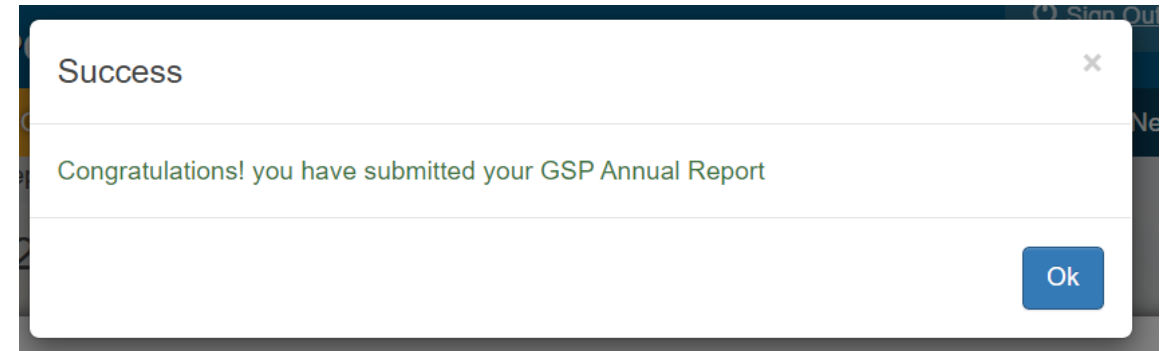
OUTLINE

- Update on Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) Implementation Tasks
- Multi-Benefit Land Repurposing Grant Update
- Projects and Management Actions (P/MAs) Screening
- Executive Order N-7-22 Action 9: Well Permit Verification

6a. UPDATE ON GSP IMPLEMENTATION TASKS

UPDATE ON GSP DELIVERABLES

- Water Year 2021 Annual Report was submitted to DWR on 3/31/2022
- Final Proposition I and Proposition 68 Grant Completion Report and final grant invoices were submitted to DWR on 4/7/2022



1 COMMENT LETTER ON GSP SUBMITTED TO DWR

- Public comment period ended 4/30/2022
- Similar comments to those on the public draft GSP:
 - Map interconnected surface water reaches
 - Utilize seasonal groundwater elevation data
 - Absence of a drinking water well mitigation plan
 - Analyze water quality impacts to drinking water users
- Provides links to new tools and guidance documents produced by The Nature Conservancy and Community Water Center
- No GSA action or response required at this time



April 30, 2022

Paul Gosselin
Deputy Director, Sustainable Groundwater Management Office
California Department of Water Resources
Sacramento, California
Submitted via SGMA GSP Portal

Re: Comments on the White Wolf Groundwater Sustainability Plan

Dear Deputy Director Gosselin,

On behalf of the above-listed organizations, we appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) for the White Wolf Basin. Our organizations are deeply engaged in and committed to the successful implementation of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) because we understand that groundwater is critical for the resilience of California's water portfolio, particularly in light of climate change. Our review focuses on how well drinking water users, disadvantaged communities, tribes, environment, stakeholder involvement, and climate change were addressed in the GSP.¹ Collectively, these issues are true indicators of sustainability. Because California's water and economy are interconnected, the sustainable management of each basin is of interest to both local communities and the state as a whole.

Under the requirements of SGMA, Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) must consider the interests of all beneficial uses and users of groundwater, including domestic well owners, environmental users, surface water users, state and federal government, California Native American tribes, and

¹ Our organizations are non-tribal NGOs that are providing a review of the identification of federally and state recognized tribes (Data source: SGMA Data viewer) or other tribal interests identified within the GSP. We recognize that there are likely tribal interests that we are not able to detect through mapped lands and stated interests in the GSP. The lack of detection of tribal interests in our analysis should not be taken as evidence for a lack of tribal interests in a basin, but rather that our method could not identify tribal interests. We recommended during our review of draft GSPs that the GSA utilize the DWR's "Engagement with Tribal Governments" Guidance Document to comprehensively address these important beneficial users in their GSP.

GSP IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITIES: FIELD WORK

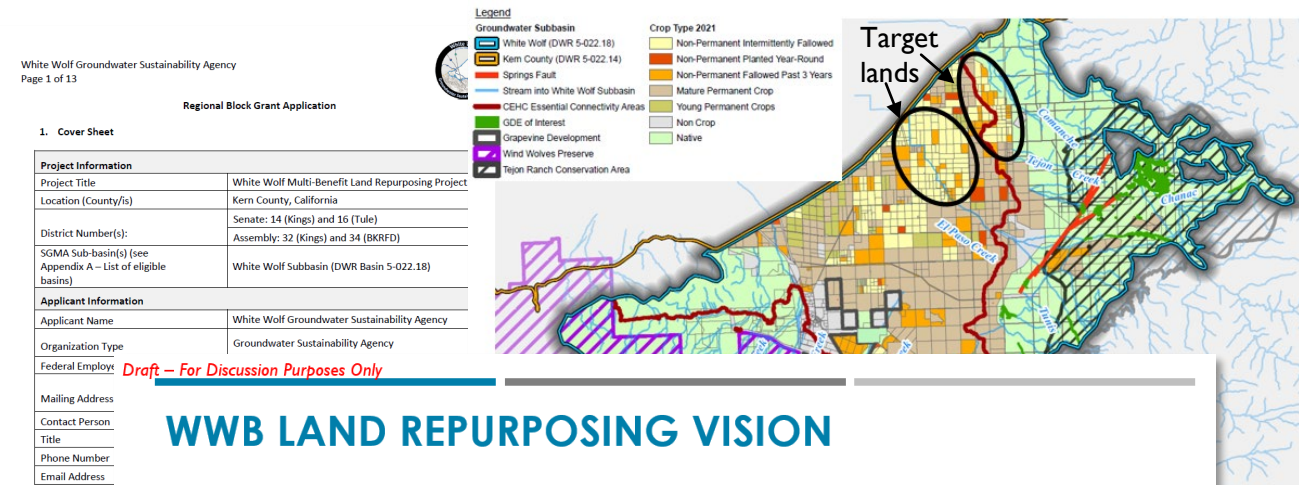
- Installed streamflow data logger in El Paso Creek
- Re-installed transducer in RMW-ISWI (cattle damaged)
- Coordinated survey of 1 RMW-WL and 2 land surface benchmarks
- Downloaded all data from other transducers and thermologgers



6b. MULTI-BENEFIT LAND REPURPOSING GRANT UPDATE

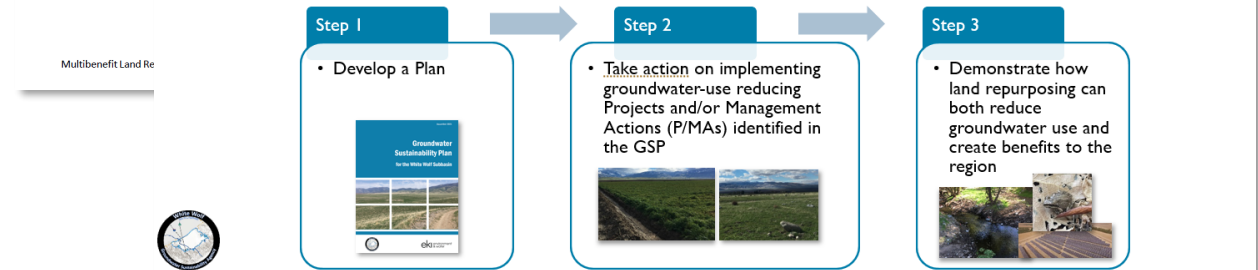
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION (DOC) MULTI-BENEFIT LAND REPURPOSING GRANT

- White Wolf Multi-Benefit Land Repurposing Project Regional Block Grant Application submitted to the DOC on 4/1/2022
- Technical Committee and Project Partners participated in an interview with DOC on 5/2/2022



WWB LAND REPURPOSING VISION

- Initiate land repurposing through a systematic process that considers multiple beneficial uses, engages landowners, reduces groundwater use, supports wildlife habitat, and helps the Basin work toward achieving its Sustainability Goal as outlined in the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP)
 - GSP identified up to 9,500 acre-feet per year of groundwater use reduction by 2042



WHITE WOLF GSA WAS NOT SELECTED

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California
Department of Conservation
Division of Land Resource Protection

Gavin Newsom, Governor
David Shabazzian, Director

May 23, 2022

Angelica Martin
White Wolf GSA

Via Email to: amartin@tejonranch.com

Re: Multibenefit Land Repurposing Program Grant Solicitation – Regional Block Grants

Dear Angelica:

Thank you for your application in response to the Department of Conservation's Multibenefit Land Repurposing Program regional block grant solicitation.

After careful consideration, we regret to inform you that your proposal was not selected for funding. The response to the request for proposals was highly competitive; the Department received regional block grant funding requests amounting to over \$111 million, making the \$40.5 million allocated for regional block grants insufficient to fund all proposals.

Following review of your application, reviewers commented that the proposal could be strengthened by:

- Expanding on the details to be included in the applicant's land repurposing plan, and providing justification for the proposed proportion of the budget dedicated to the plan's development
- Clarifying how stakeholder input will inform the development of the land repurposing plan and how the applicant will mitigate barriers to participation
- Clarifying how the applicant would coordinate work between partners to ensure the project goals are met
- Clarifying the technical committee's role in the proposal, including who the technical committee will represent and how the technical committee will impact work conducted under the grant
- Expanding partnerships to include environmental justice voices

We invite you to consider this feedback and encourage you to connect with Department staff to identify additional ways to improve your proposal. The Governor's budget proposes \$60 million in new funding over two years for the program. Should the program receive additional funding, we sincerely hope you will consider submitting a revised application.

State of California Natural Resources Agency | Department of Conservation
715 P Street, MS 1904, Sacramento, CA 95814
conservation.ca.gov | T: (916) 324-0850 | F: (916) 327-3430

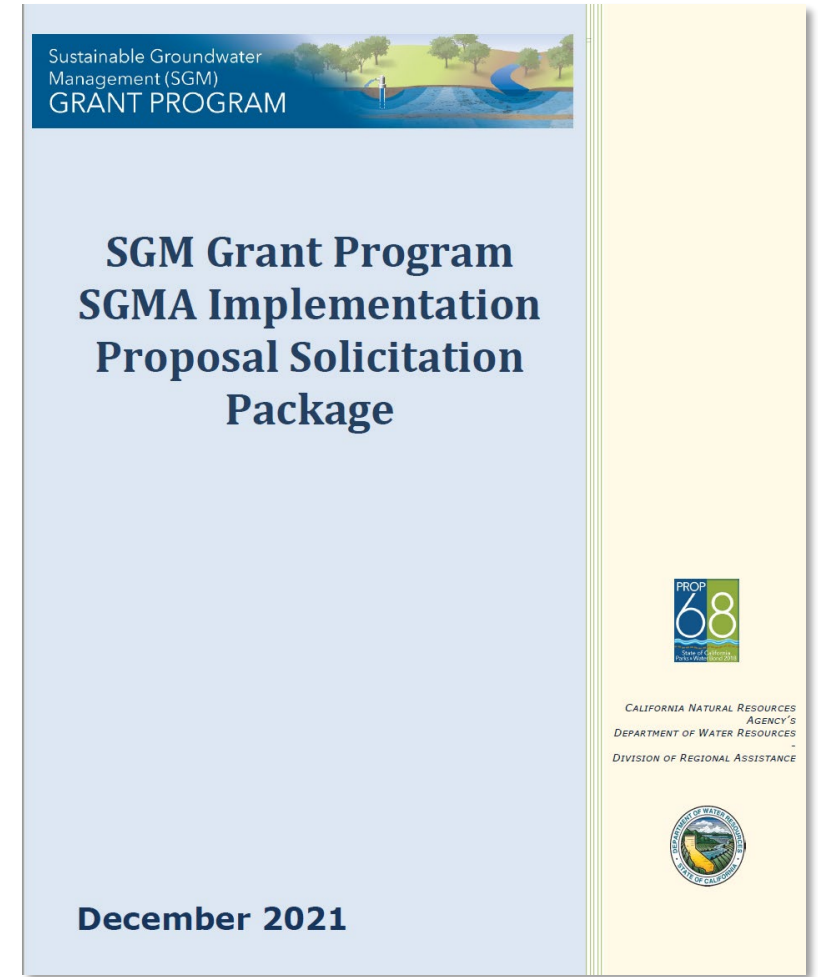
■ Recipients:

- **Kaweah Delta Water Conservation District: \$10M** to develop a comprehensive land repurposing program by following with the intent to restore
- **Pixley Irrigation District GSA: \$10M** to facilitate strategic land retirement, develop habitat resources, and protect and enhance water resources via pilot projects that will be representative of future regional work (e.g., upland restoration of fallowed lands)
- **California Marine Sanctuary Foundation: \$10M** to fund land repurposing work by a broad coalition, including disadvantaged communities and tribes to strategically and voluntarily repurpose the least viable ag lands in Lower Salinas Valley
- **County of Madera: \$10M** to provide incentive payments to landowners to repurpose marginal agricultural lands

6c. P/MAs SCREENING

PROP 68 ROUND 2 GRANT APPLICATION PLANNING

- Solicitation opens in September 2022
- **Very competitive:** total of \$202 million available for 94 eligible basins
- Each grant can ask for \$1 to \$20 million
- Cost share not required, however additional points will be given to those who have a cost share of at least 5% of total project cost
- All work must be completed by June 30, 2025



PROP 68 GRANT DETAILS

Eligible Projects

- Groundwater recharge projects
- Clean up contamination of groundwater
- Water supply reliability, water conservation, and water use efficiency and water banking, exchange, and reclamation
- Geophysical investigations
- Implementation of existing regional flood management plans
- Floodplain expansion to benefit groundwater recharge or habitat
- Modifications to a GSP
- Capital improvement projects listed in a GSP

Evaluation Criteria

- Clear justification on project selection
- Three quantifiable benefits identified and supported with backup documentation
- Well-coordinated
- Ability for interested parties' engagement in decision-making
- Positive impact to domestic and small water system wells
- Supports Human Right to Water
- Well defined scope
- Feasible budget

P/MA SCREENING AND PRIORITIZATION

- Identify Prop 68 grant eligible White Wolf GSP projects
- Assess spatial feasibility for the three primary recharge mechanisms:
 - Direct recharge
 - Floodplain recharge
 - In-lieu recharge
- Identify other screening criteria (benefits, timeline, cost, etc.)
- Rank projects

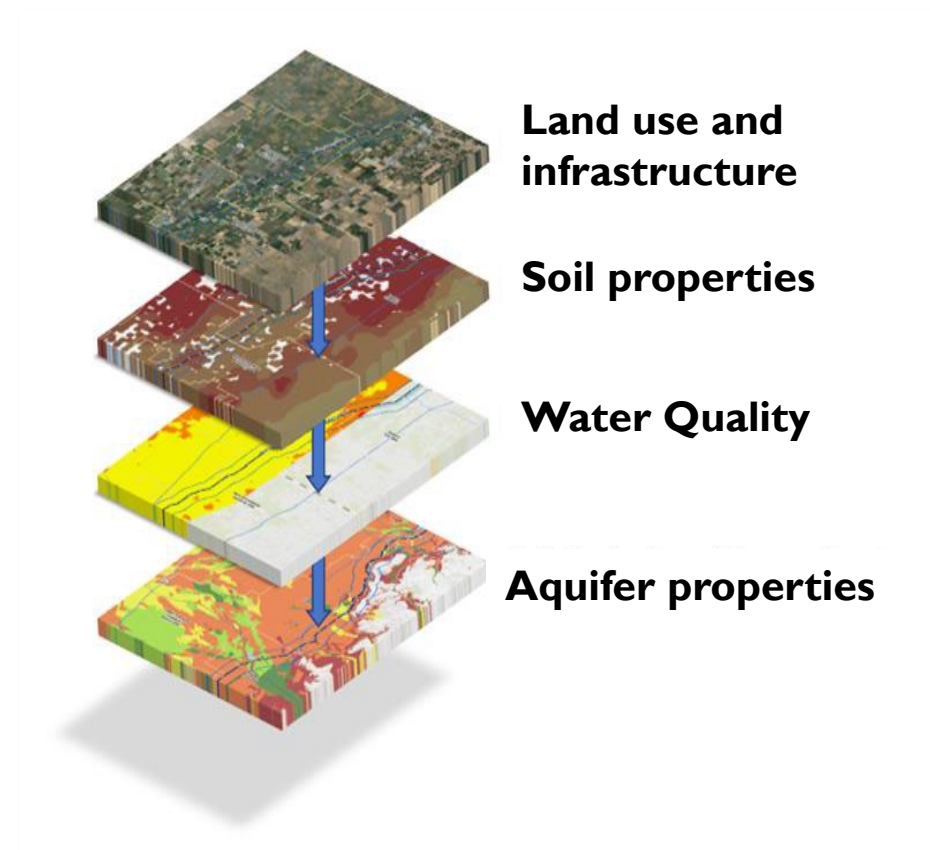
13 ELIGIBLE WHITE WOLF GSP PROJECTS

P/MA #	P/MA Name	Recharge Mechanism
2	Oilfield Reclaimed Water from the Tejon Oil Field	Direct / In Lieu
3	Oilfield Reclaimed Water in AEWSD	In Lieu
6	WRMWSD Desalination Facility	In Lieu
7	Recapture of Basin Groundwater	In Lieu
8	WRMWSD Mettler Recharge Project	Direct
9	WRMWSD El Paso Creek Recharge Project	Floodplain / Direct
10	AEWSD In-Lieu Banking Program	In Lieu
11	AEWSD Private & Caltrans Basin Connections	In Lieu
12	AEWSD South Canal WRMWSD 850 Canal Intertie	--
13	AEWSD South Canal Balancing Reservoir Project	--
14	AEWSD Groundwater Subsidies for Land Conversion	Floodplain
15	WRMWSD Land Retirement and/or Conversion	Floodplain
22	Improved Stormwater Management and Flood Control in AEWSD	Floodplain

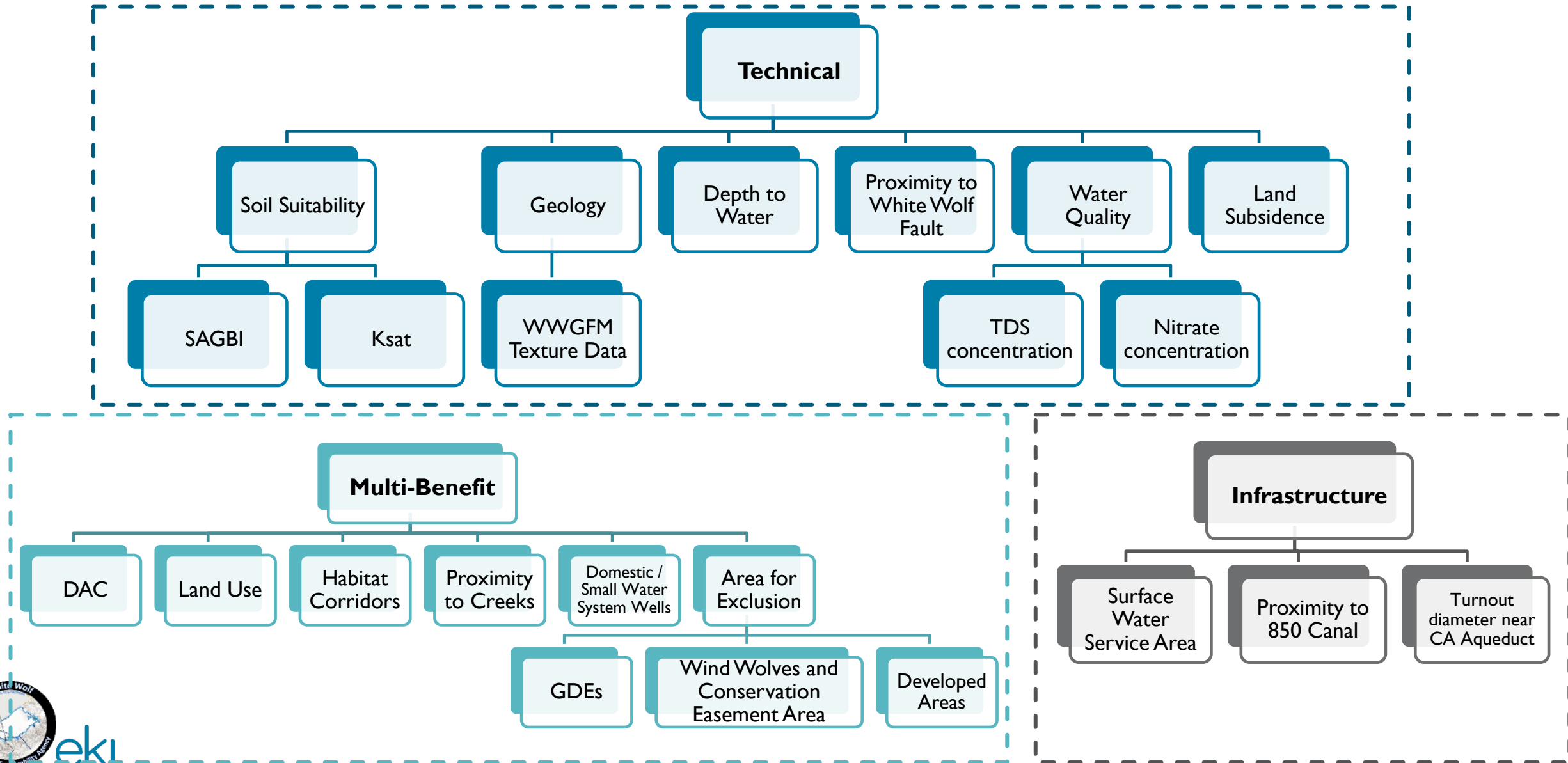


SPATIAL FEASIBILITY SCREENING METHODOLOGY

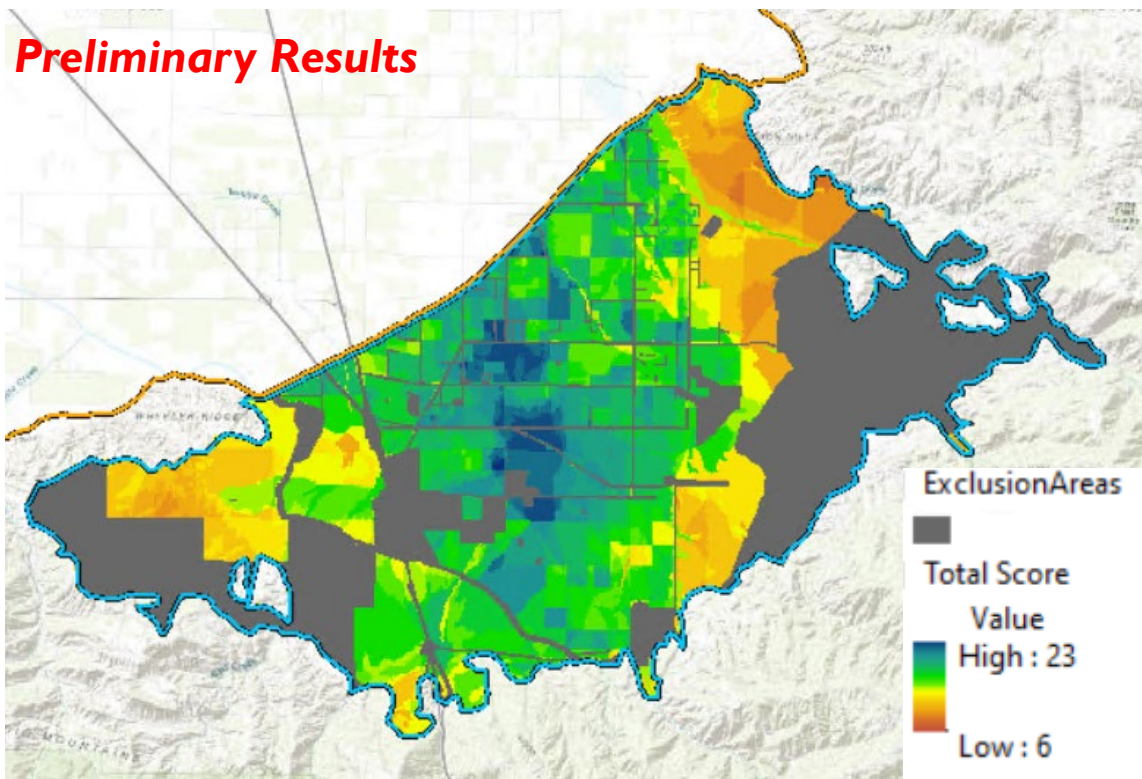
- Develop initial screening criteria
- Compile datasets, map, and summarize (“bin”) values for each dataset
- Develop scoring framework for each dataset/criteria
 - Reclassify each dataset’s values into a score of 1 to 3, 0 if no data
- Convert spatial datasets into rasters with geospatial representation of scoring
- Calculate total scores by summing up all raster/dataset scores
 - Areas with higher scores are objectively “more suitable” for recharge



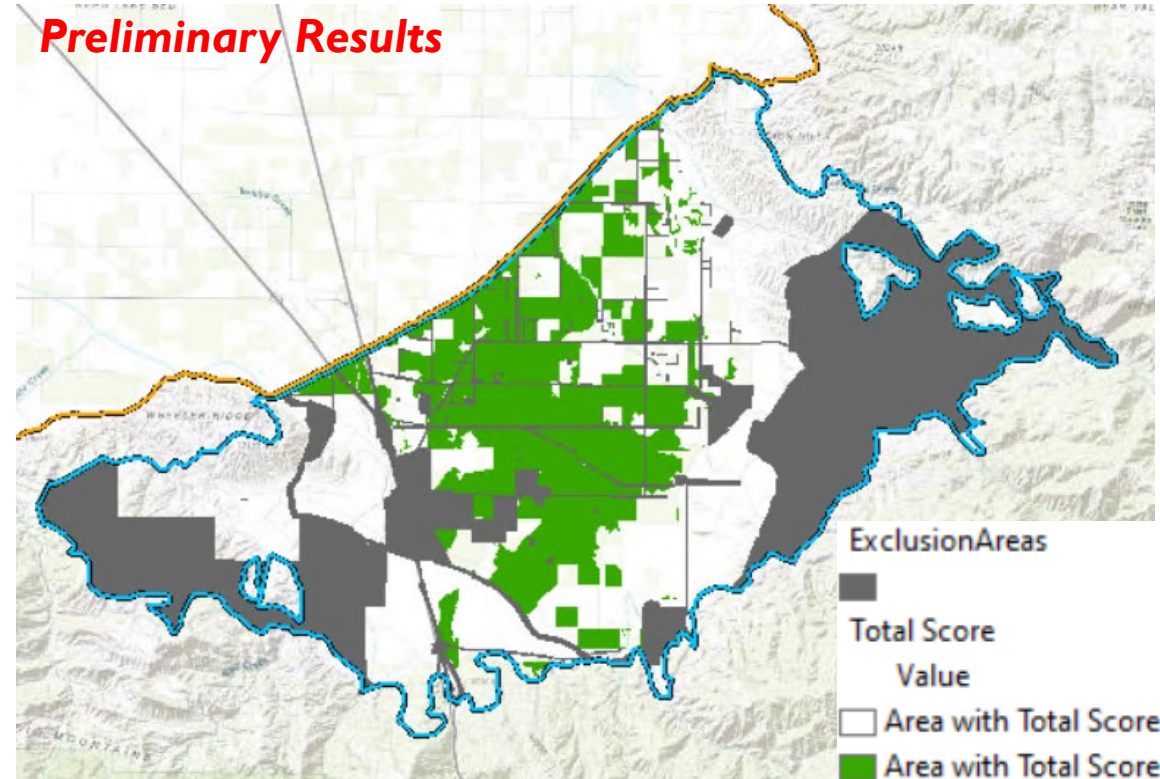
INITIAL SCREENING CRITERIA DEVELOPMENT



SPATIAL FEASIBILITY SCREENING RESULTS



Total Score



Area with High Total Score

P/MA SCREENING NEXT STEPS

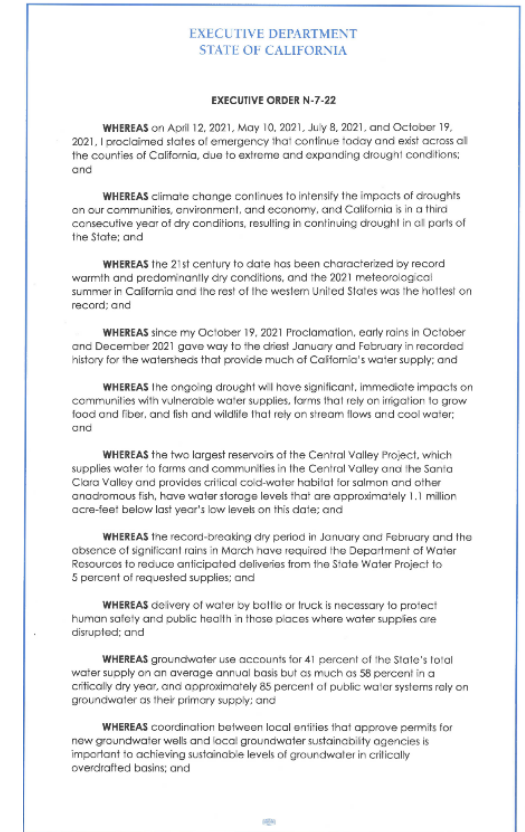
- Fully incorporate all identified screening criteria and finalize direct recharge feasibility map
- Conduct other spatial screening using variable weighting factors
 - Examples: increase weight for proximity to creeks for floodplain recharge; increase weight for proximity to WWF for in-lieu recharge
- Identify other P/MA screening criteria based on Technical Committee and GSA Board direction:
 - Benefits to groundwater conditions
 - Timeline
 - Cost
 - Complexity
- Rank projects and select “most justifiable” based on screening criteria

6d. EXECUTIVE ORDER N-7-22 ACTION 9: WELL PERMIT VERIFICATION

GOVERNOR'S EXECUTIVE ORDER N-7-22 ACTION 9

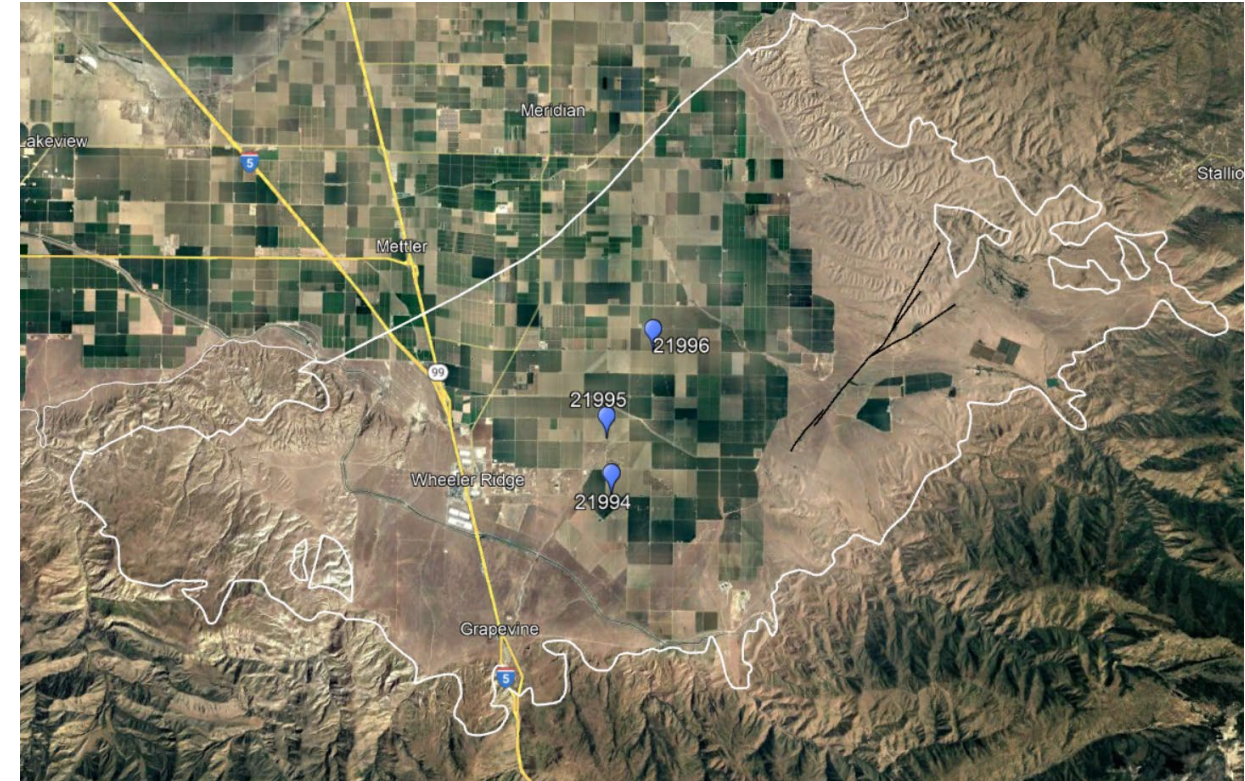
To protect health, safety, and the environment during this drought emergency, a county, city, or other public agency shall not:

- a) Approve a permit for a new groundwater well or for alteration of an existing well in a basin subject to the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act and classified as medium-or high-priority without first ***obtaining written verification from a Groundwater Sustainability Agency*** managing the basin or area of the basin where the well is proposed to be located that groundwater extraction by ***the proposed well would not be inconsistent with any sustainable groundwater management program established in any applicable Groundwater Sustainability Plan adopted by that Groundwater Sustainability Agency and would not decrease the likelihood of achieving a sustainability goal for the basin covered by such a plan***; or
 - b) Issue a permit for a new groundwater well or for alteration of an existing well without first determining that extraction of groundwater from the proposed well is (1) not likely to interfere with the production and functioning of existing nearby wells, and (2) not likely to cause subsidence that would adversely impact or damage nearby infrastructure.
- Does not apply to domestic wells with < 2 AFY or public water supply system wells



WELL PERMIT REVIEW REQUESTS

- 3 agricultural well permit applications for WWB in April
- White Wolf GSA does not currently have an adopted procedure to handle new well permit review requests
- Draft Well Permit Acknowledgement Letter included in Board packet for review



QUESTIONS?

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