



# Groundwater Management Plan Update for the Tahoe South Subbasin (6.005-1)

South Tahoe Public Utility District  
Groundwater Sustainability  
Agency

(11/23/2020)



The District and El Dorado Water Agency are in the process of developing the first five year update of the 2014 Groundwater Management Plan (2014 GMP) for the Tahoe South Subbasin, herein referred to as the Tahoe South Subbasin Alternative (Alternative).

The Tahoe South Subbasin (Subbasin) covers an area of about twenty-three (23) square miles underlying the City of South Lake Tahoe and the neighboring communities of Angora, Meyers and Christmas Valley in El Dorado County, CA.

The following presentation provides;

- Background information on the current 2014 GMP;
- A description of the update process; and
- How you can get involved with this process.



## **BACKGROUND**

- Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA)
- Tahoe South Subbasin (Subbasin)
- Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs)
- Tahoe South Subbasin Alternative (Alternative)



### **BACKGROUND**

Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) are local agencies recognized by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) for managing groundwater on behalf of all beneficial uses and users of groundwater within their respective groundwater basins.

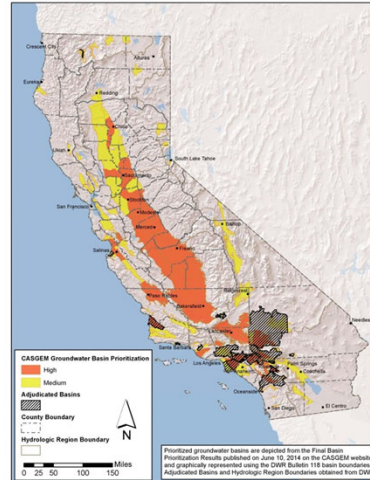
The following section provides general background information on;

- The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA);
- The Tahoe South Subbasin (Subbasin);
- GSAs within the Subbasin; and
- The Tahoe South Subbasin Alternative (Alternative).



## SGMA (effective Jan 1, 2015)

- Local agencies must form GSAs (by June 2017)
- GSAs must adopt Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) or Alternative (by January 2022)
- GSAs must implement an approved GSP or Alternative within their respective groundwater basin.



Under SGMA, GSAs are required to develop and adopt a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) or Alternative to sustainably manage groundwater within a basin.

These plans are developed by GSAs so that the local community has a stake in determining what are local groundwater conditions and defining the basins desired state.

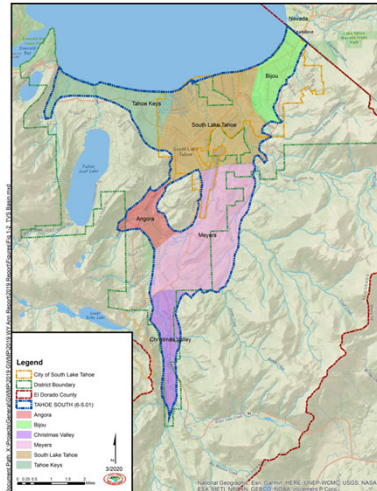
GSAs must also implement the adopted plan to maintain or improve groundwater conditions in order to attain the basins desired state within 20-years of implementation.

To insure GSAs are making progress towards this goal, DWR will regularly review these plans every 5-years.



# Tahoe South Subbasin

- Medium-Priority Basin
  - Moderate population density
  - High reliance on groundwater
  - High well density
  - High susceptibility to contamination




During 2015 and 2018, DWR conducted Basin Prioritizations to identify those groundwater basins subject to new groundwater management requirements under SGMA.

Through this process, the Subbasin was ranked as a Medium-Priority Basin; and under SGMA, subject to new groundwater management requirements.

The Subbasin was found subject to these new groundwater management requirements as;

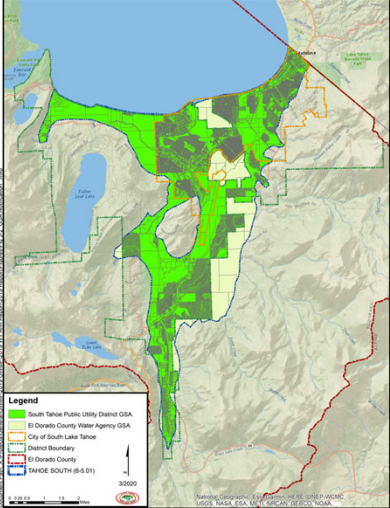
- The Subbasin has a moderate population density with a very high reliance on groundwater for drinking water (more than 90% of the drinking water used in the Subbasin is from groundwater);
- Along with this high reliance, there is a high density of both public and private drinking water wells within the Subbasin (recent surveys conducted by the District indicate that there may be more than 400 active drinking water wells currently within the Subbasin); and

- Groundwater within the Subbasin is very susceptible to contamination (as evidenced by the history of local groundwater contaminant plumes and the impairments of public and private drinking water wells).




# GSAs

- South Tahoe Public Utility District GSA (November 2015)
- El Dorado Water Agency GSA (September 2017)
- MOU – sustainably manage groundwater resources in basin (2016; 2017; 2020)



**SECOND AMENDED AND RESTATED  
MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**

This Second Amended and Restated Memorandum of Understanding ("MOU") is entered into on this 4th day of June, 2020 ("Effective Date"), by and between the South Tahoe Public Utility District ("District") and the El Dorado County Water Agency ("EDCWA") (each a "Party" and collectively the "Parties"), at South Lake Tahoe, California, with reference to the following facts and intentions:



GSAs in the Subbasin include the South Tahoe Public Utility District (District) and the El Dorado Water Agency (Water Agency).

The District has been recognized as the exclusive GSA for the portion of the Subbasin lying within it's service area boundary (area shown in Green), since November 2015.

In September 2016, the District and the Water Agency entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to cooperatively manage groundwater resources and coordinate implementation of SGMA (on the Water Agency's behalf) for the portions of the Subbasin within El Dorado County, outside of the District's service area (area shown in yellow).

This MOU was later modified as an Amended and Restated MOU in June 2017. At that time, the Water Agency submitted a GSA Notification of its intent to serve as the GSA for the County portion of the Subbasin lying outside the District's service area boundary; and the District withdrew it's earlier 2016 GSA Notification submitted for this area.

The Amended and Restated MOU was later modified as a Second Amended and Restated MOU in June 2020. The Second Amended and Restated MOU was modified to acknowledge the District's 2014 GMP as an approved Alternative for the Subbasin; and coordinate implementation of the Alternative across the full extent of the Subbasin.



# Tahoe South Subbasin Alternative

- South Tahoe PUD adopts 2014 Groundwater Management Plan (Dec 2014)
- 2014 GMP submitted to Department of Water Resources (Dec 2016)
- DWR approves 2014 GMP as Tahoe South Subbasin Alternative (July 2019)

**Kennedy/Jenks Consultants**  
10550 Grand Canyon Drive, Suite 350  
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670  
916-855-2700  
916-855-2754 (Fax)

**Tahoe Valley South Basin  
(6-S.01)  
2014 Groundwater  
Management Plan**  
22 December 2014

**South Tahoe  
Public Utility District**  
1275 Meadow Crest Drive • South Lake Tahoe • CA 96150-7402  
Phone 530-544-6474 • Fax 530-544-0804 • www.stpuid.net

December 22, 2016

Trevor Joseph  
Soil Engineering Geologist  
SGM Section Chief  
902 F Street, Room 313  
P.O. Box 942836  
Sacramento, California 94236

**RE: SUBMISSION OF 2014 GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN AS ALTERNATIVE PLAN**

**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES  
SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER  
MANAGEMENT OFFICE**  
902 F Street, Room 313-4 | Sacramento, CA 95834 | P.O. Box 942836 | Sacramento, CA 94236-0037

July 17, 2019

Mr. Ivo Bergsohn  
South Tahoe Public Utility District  
1275 Meadow Crest Drive  
South Lake Tahoe, California 96150

Dear Mr. Bergsohn,

The Department of Water Resources (Department) has evaluated the alternative submitted for the Tahoe South Subbasin. Based on recommendations from the Staff Report, included as an exhibit to the attached Statement of Findings, the Department has determined that the Tahoe South Subbasin Alternative satisfies the objectives of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) and is approved. The Staff

The District has a long history of groundwater management within the Tahoe South Subbasin. In 2000, the District enacted its first groundwater ordinance and adopted an accompanying Groundwater Management Plan focused on protecting District drinking water wells from man-made groundwater contaminants.

In 2014, this groundwater management plan was updated in accordance with the Groundwater Management Act which then defined the regulatory requirements for Local Groundwater Management Plans.

In 2016, the District with support of the Water Agency, submitted the 2014 GMP along with other related plans, reports and documents to DWR for consideration as an Alternative for the Subbasin.

In July 2019, DWR approved the 2014 GMP as an Alternative for the Subbasin and required that the District complete the first 5-year update of this Alternative by January 1, 2022.



## PERIODIC REVIEW

- Status Review
- New Information



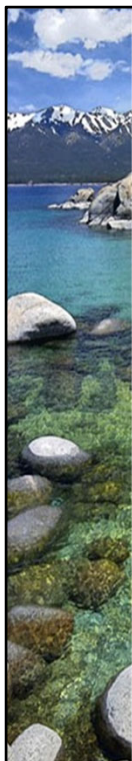
### PERIODIC REVIEW

Under SGMA, GSA's with approved GSP's or Alternatives are required to periodically review and assess their plans every 5 years.

The first 5-year update is planned to include a:

- Status Review of the current Alternative; and
- Updating the current Alternative using new information developed since initial adoption of the 2014 GMP.





## Status Review

- Review the current 2014 GMP;
- Adjust plan actions, as needed, to align with accomplishments and current conditions;
- Review new information for incorporation into the updated Alternative.



The Status Review is planned to include;

- Review of the current 2014 GMP;
  - In light of new regulatory requirements under SGMA; and
  - Actions completed since adoption of the 2014 GMP.
- New information developed since adoption of the 2014 GMP will also be reviewed for incorporation into the updated Alternative.



## New Information

- Develop 50-Year water budgets considering climate change and population growth
- Show how groundwater pumping may impact groundwater contaminant migration
- Estimate the quantity and timing of depletions of interconnected surface waters
- Define quantitative management criteria with respect to groundwater elevations, groundwater storage volumes, and volumes or rate of surface water depletions.



DWR recommended that the following information be included in the updated Alternative:

- 50-year water budgets for the groundwater basin considering both climate change and population growth;
- Examples of how groundwater pumping may impact the movement of groundwater contaminants within the Subbasin;
- Estimates of the quantity and timing of potential depletions of surface waters from groundwater pumping; and
- Management criteria that can be used to prevent unreasonable declines in groundwater elevation; volume reductions in groundwater storage; and unreasonable volumes or rates of surface water depletions within the Subbasin.



## **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

- Web Page
- Public Meetings & Workshops
- Public Review



### **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

The District is committed to providing an on-going process for public participation and coordination with local agencies in support of sustainable groundwater management. As such, the District is actively seeking your input and invites you to get involved in the first 5-year update of the Alternative.

To keep you up-to-date during this process the District will;

- Provide regular updates to the District's Groundwater Management Plan Web Page;
- Offer on-line meetings and workshops to inform the public and solicit input; and
- Provide a public comment period for formal review and input on the draft Alternative.



## Web Page

- <https://stpud.us/news/groundwater-management-plan/>
- Plan Notices
- Plan Documents
- Technical Reports
- Stakeholder Advisory Group (SAG)
  - Meeting Notes & Presentations



The District's web site is being used as an information clearinghouse for updating the Alternative.

Important Public Notices; Plan Documents; and Technical Reports related to the Alternative are posted on the District's Groundwater Management Plan Web Page.

Announcements of upcoming on-line meetings and workshops are being posted under Plan Notices.

Links to the current Alternative (the 2014 Groundwater Management Plan) and related documents including the MOUs between the District and El Dorado Water Agency are provided under Plan Documents.

Additional technical information in the form of related reports and documents are provided under Technical Reports; and

Finally meeting notes and presentations from past Stakeholder Advisory Group (SAG) Workshops are posted to provide further information on groundwater issues and concerns being addressed under the current Alternative.



## Public Meetings & Workshops

- Board Meetings
- SAG Workshops
- Stakeholder Group Presentations



Public Meetings and Workshops will be used to inform and solicit comment from the public, interested parties and stakeholders during development of the updated Alternative.

Brief status reports will be provided during Regular Meetings of the District's Board of Directors;

Status review of the current Alternative and on-going work for the updated Alternative are being discussed during Stakeholder Advisory Group (SAG) Workshops. These on-line meetings are also open to the public.

Lastly, the District will meet with specific stakeholder groups, such as Private Well Owners and Environmental users of groundwater, outside SAG Workshops to help identify and discuss specific groundwater concerns unique to these stakeholder groups.



## Public Review

- Notice of Availability (NOA)
- Public Comment
- Public Meeting
- Public Hearing



Near the end of the review period, a Notice of Availability (NOA) will be issued announcing the release of the public draft of the updated Alternative and the start of the public comment period.

The NOA will include a link to download a copy of the public draft Alternative, and will include details of an online meeting to be hosted by the District presenting the draft Alternative.

Comments received during the public comment period will be compiled and reviewed by District staff. Significant comments will be highlighted and brought to the attention of the District's Board of Director's.

During the Public Hearing the Board will consider these comments and determine in what form the District shall adopt the updated Alternative.



# TAHOE SOUTH SUBBASIN ALTERNATIVE

- Schedule
- Additional Information



## TAHOE SOUTH SUBBASIN ALTERNATIVE

The first five year update of the Tahoe South Subbasin Alternative is due to DWR by January 1, 2022.

The following section presents a general list of meetings and workshops to be scheduled over the coming year for the updated Alternative;

Sources of additional information are provided at the end of this presentation.



## Schedule

- Board Meetings: 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays of every month
- SAG Workshops: 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> quarters of every year
- Public Draft /Notice of Availability – October 2021
- Public Meeting – November 2021
- Public Hearing – December 2021



Status reports on the progress of the updated Alternative will be provided to the District's Board of Directors on a Quarterly Basis or as needed to inform the Board on issues raised during the update process.

These updates are planned to be provided during Regular Board Meetings. The District's Board regularly meets on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays of every month.

The District hosts workshops with the SAG at least two times per year. These meetings are also open to the public and will be used to discuss the Status Review and the findings of current work being conducted for the updated Alternative.

SAG Workshops are planned to be scheduled during the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarters of 2021.

The District is planning to complete a Public Draft of the updated Alternative by October 2021.

The Public Meeting presenting the public Draft will be scheduled near the middle of the public comment period in November 2021;

A Public Hearing to consider public comments and adopt the updated Alternative will be scheduled in early December 2021.





## Information

- Plan Manager
  - Ivo Bergsohn, Hydrogeologist
    - (530) 543-6204
- Interested Parties Email List
  - [ibergsohn@stpud.dst.ca.us](mailto:ibergsohn@stpud.dst.ca.us)
- GMP Web Page
  - <https://stpud.us/news/groundwater-management-plan/>



For further Information about this process, your invited to:

Contact the Plan Manager;

- Should you have questions about the current 2014 GMP and/or development of the Tahoe South Subbasin Alternative; and
- Add your email to the Interested Parties List.

The Interested Parties List is being used to send notifications of public meetings, workshops and information updates related to development of the updated Alternative to your email.

Lastly, please visit the GMP Web Page to download Public Notices, Plan Documents and Technical Information being posted for the updated Alternative.