



# UKIAH VALLEY BASIN GROUNWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY

## Regular Meeting AGENDA

County of Mendocino Supervisors Chamber ♦ 501 Low Gap Rd. ♦ Ukiah, CA 95482

To participate or view the virtual meeting, go to the following link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86074412428>

Alternatively, you may view the meeting (without participating) by clicking on the date and name of the meeting at [www.cityofukiah.com/meetings](http://www.cityofukiah.com/meetings), then go to the media tab.

June 12, 2025 - 10:00 AM

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### 1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

### 2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

### 3. AUDIENCE COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

The Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) Board welcomes input from the audience. If there is a matter of business on the agenda that you are interested in, you may address the Board when this matter is considered. If you wish to speak on a matter that is not on this agenda that is within the subject matter jurisdiction of the GSA Board, you may do so at this time. In order for everyone to be heard, please limit your comments to three (3) minutes per person and not more than ten (10) minutes per subject. The Brown Act regulations do not allow action to be taken on audience comments in which the subject is not listed on the agenda.

### 4. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ITEMS

4.a. Consideration of the Fiscal Year 2025 - 2026 Operating Budget of the Ukiah Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency.

**Recommended Action: Approve of the Fiscal Year 2025 - 2026 operating budget of the Ukiah Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency.**

Attachments:

1. FY25-26 Budget Staff Report With Tables

4.b. Consideration of a Resolution Adopting Regulatory Fee Changes for Fiscal Year 2025 - 2026.

**Recommended Action: Adopt the Resolution adopting regulatory fee changes for Fiscal Year 2025 - 2026.**

Attachments:

1. Fee Resolution 005-2025

### 5. CONSENT CALENDAR

The following items listed are considered routine and will be enacted by a single motion and roll call vote by the GSA Board. Items may be removed from the Consent Calendar upon request of a Board Member or a citizen, in which event the item will be considered at the completion of all other items on the agenda. The motion by the Board Members on the Consent Calendar will approve and make findings in accordance with Staff recommendations.

- 5.a. Approval of the Minutes for the April 10, 2025, GSA Regular Meeting.  
**Recommended Action: Approve the minutes for the April 10, 2025, GSA Regular Meeting**

Attachments:

1. 2025-04-10 Draft Minutes

- 5.b. Authorize the General Manager to Execute an Amendment to Existing Vendor Agreements with California Land Stewardship Institute (CLSI), Mendocino County Resource Conservation District (MCRCD), West Yost, and Larry Walker & Associates (LWA) Extending the Term Through June 2025, with Minor Changes to Scope and Compensation.

**Recommended Action: Authorize the General Manager, in collaboration with legal counsel and the GSA Board Chair, to execute amendments to existing vendor agreements**

**6. STAFF AND PARTNER UPDATES**

- 6.a. Updates from General Manager

- 6.b. Updates from GSA Legal Counsel

**Recommended Action: Receive updates from GSA Legal Counsel regarding the disbandment of Upper Russian River Water Agency**

**7. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS AND SET NEXT MEETING DATE**

- 7.a. Discussion and Consideration of Future Agenda Items and Scheduling of Next Meeting Date with Meeting to be Held at the County of Mendocino, Board of Supervisors Chamber, 501 Low Gap Rd., Ukiah, CA 95482, at 10:00 a.m.

**Recommended Action: Adopt the proposed Fiscal Year 2025 - 2026 meeting schedule of the Ukiah Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency**

| <b>FY<br/>25/26</b> | <b>GSA BOARD<br/>REGULAR<br/>MEETINGS</b>  | <b>TECHNICAL<br/>ADVISORY<br/>COMMITTEE<br/>MEETINGS</b> |
|---------------------|--|--|
| <b>Q1</b>           | <b>Thursday,<br/>August 14, 2025</b>       |  |
| <b>Q2</b>           |  | <b>Wednesday,<br/>October 8, 2025</b>                    |
| <b>Q2</b>           | <b>Thursday,<br/>November 13,<br/>2025</b> |  |
| <b>Q3</b>           |  | <b>Wednesday,<br/>February 11, 2026</b>                  |
| <b>Q3</b>           | <b>Thursday, March<br/>12, 2026</b>        |  |
| <b>Q4</b>           |  | <b>Wednesday, May 13,<br/>2026</b>                       |
| <b>Q4</b>           | <b>Thursday, June<br/>11, 2026</b>         |  |

**8. ADJOURNMENT**

Please be advised that the Ukiah Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) Board needs to be notified 24 hours in advance of a meeting if any specific accommodations or interpreter services are needed in order for you to attend. The GSA Board complies with ADA requirements and will attempt to reasonably accommodate individuals with disabilities upon request. Materials related to an item on this Agenda submitted to the GSA Board Members after distribution of the agenda packet are available for public inspection at the front counter at the Ukiah Civic Center, 300 Seminary Avenue, Ukiah, CA 95482, during normal business hours, Monday through Friday, 8:00 am to 5:00 pm. Any handouts or presentation materials from the public must be submitted to the clerk 48 hours in advance of the meeting; for handouts, please include 10 copies.

I hereby certify under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing agenda was posted on the bulletin board at the main entrance of the City of Ukiah City Hall, located at 300 Seminary Avenue, Ukiah, California; and at 501 Low Gap Rd., Ukiah, CA 95482; not less than 72 hours prior to the meeting set forth on this agenda.

Kristine Lawler, CMC/CPMC  
Dated: 6/6/25



**UKIAH VALLEY BASIN  
GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY (GSA)**

**STAFF REPORT**

**SUBJECT:** Consideration of the Fiscal Year 2025 - 2026 Operating Budget of the Ukiah Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency.

**PREPARED BY:** Blake Adams, Chief Resiliency Officer

**PRESENTER:** Blake Adams, General Manager

**ATTACHMENTS:**

1. FY25-26 Budget Staff Report With Tables

**Summary:** Staff recommends Board approval of the proposed FY 2025/2026 GSA Budget, which funds essential activities required to comply with the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) and maintain local control of the Ukiah Valley groundwater basin. The proposed budget totals \$1.32 million in revenue—a 48% increase from the prior year—driven by grant funding from the California Department of Fish & Wildlife, inflation-adjusted fee revenue, and reserve growth. Expenditures are projected at \$1.14 million, reflecting a 60% increase primarily due to the launch of the Interconnected Surface Water and Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems Study and the start of GSP Periodic Evaluation work. All tabulated data and figures can be found in Attachment 1.

**Background:** The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA), passed in 2014, requires the Ukiah Valley groundwater basin to prepare and implement a Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSP) that guides the Ukiah Valley basin towards sustainability. The project and management actions (PMAs) identified in the GSP are conducted for the sole purpose of complying with the requirements of SGMA. It is acknowledged that historically, this basin has operated sustainably. However, changes in water transfers from the Eel River and climate change pose certain risks that may need to be addressed in the future management of local groundwater.

GSA staff met twice with the Ad-Hoc Budget Committee (Directors Gaska and Watt) to develop the proposed FY 2025/2026 budget to fund activities needed to stay in compliance with SGMA and maintain local control of the groundwater basin. The proposed budget, summarized in Attachment 1, aligns with the projected budgets developed for the 2024 Fee Study and adheres to sound fiscal management principles.

**Discussion: Revenues**

GSA revenues are expected to increase by 48% from the FY24-25 budget to a total revenue of \$1,318,260. This increase captures 1) an increase to the FY-End Reserve projected for the end of FY24-25 to \$218,500, 2) an increase in grant revenue from the California Department of Fish & Wildlife as the Interconnected Surface Water Study kicks off, and 3) a 2.2% increase to the groundwater sustainability fee to keep pace with inflation.

**Expense**

A detailed review was conducted by staff and the Ad-Hoc Budget Committee of expenses for the GSA. The agreed upon expenses were limited to those necessary to perform essential functions of the GSA for sigma compliance and the start of work on the Interconnected Surface Waters and Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems (ISWGDE) study. The committee reviewed the various expenses and recommended those listed in the budget in the amount of \$1,139,210, each of which is summarized below. Total expenditures are anticipated to increase by 60% from FY24-25 largely due to the initiation of the CDFW grant work and rollovers from FY24-25 for projects that were not initiated but will be initiated in FY25-26.

The GSA Administration budget covers all operational costs of running the agency, as detailed in section 5.1.1.1 of the GSP. This includes costs for banking with the County of Mendocino, running Board and TAC meetings, insurance, legal fees, fee program management, levy administration, and placement of the groundwater sustainability fees on the property tax bills with the County of Mendocino. Costs are no longer expected associated with the transition of administration services in FY25-26. Levy administration will be a new task which was previously captured as part of the Fee Study task under Project and Management Actions.

The PMA Administration budget covers all costs associated with oversight and management of PMAs, as detailed in section 5.1.1.1 of the GSP. This includes costs for oversight of GSP contractors, contract and fiscal management, outreach activities, grant administration, and Small GSA Coalition dues. Most tasks in this budget category are expected to be reduced in cost due to the cost savings of the City of Ukiah taking on administrative duties. The Grant Administration task is anticipated to increase in budget as the CDFW grant work is launched. Small GSA Coalition Membership Dues is a new task associated with contributions to fund the Small GSA Coalition which advocates for small GSAs across the state. The Ukiah Valley Basin GSA has participated in this Coalition since its inception, but this work has previously been funded by Sonoma Water who is no longer willing to be the sole funder. Prior PMA Administration budgets included costs for grant applications, however no grant applications are anticipated in FY 25-26.

The GSP Implementation budget covers all annual monitoring and reporting identified in section 5.1.1.2 of the GSP. This is work primarily conducted by LWA, MCRCD and CLSI. No significant budget adjustments are anticipated in this budget category aside from alignments with actual expenses from FY24-25.

The Project and Management Actions budget covers all costs associated with the implementation of high priority PMAs, along with GSP update requirements detailed in section 5.1.1.2 of the GSP. These are explained in more detail below:

- **Periodic Evaluation Model Updates:** Conduct model updates in preparation for the GSP Periodic Evaluation which is due to DWR in January 2027. Model updates will support all 5 Corrective Actions required by DWR for GSP Update. While budgeted for in the FY24-25 budget, this work was not begun and will begin in FY25-26.
- **Rate and Fee Study:** This work was completed in FY24-25.
- **GSP Periodic Evaluation:** Begin GSP Periodic Evaluation development. Updates to the GSP were required in the GSP Approval Letter among the 5 Corrective Actions. While budgeted for in the FY24-25 budget, this work was not begun and will begin in FY25-26. The TAC will be providing guidance to the extent of updates.
- **Well Inventory Study:** Develop a comprehensive inventory of wells within the Ukiah Valley Basin and update the basin model to account for additional well data that wasn't previously captured in the development of the basin model to most accurately represent the groundwater conditions and possible extraction points within the basin. This will improve groundwater modeling, future outreach efforts, and potential future fee structures. This is an important predecessor to other PMAs. It also supports All 5 Corrective Actions required by DWR for GSP Update. This work was begun in FY24-25 and will continue in FY25-26.
- **Interconnected SW-GW Study:** Fill in high-priority data gaps related to interconnected surface waters, groundwater dependent ecosystems, fish health, and water quality within the basin, and update the basin model and sustainable management criteria related to depletion of surface water. This project will help the GSA better define and prioritize PMAs to manage the basin more effectively where there's uncertainty on the future of Potter Valley Project diversions which support surface water flows, instream recharge to groundwater, groundwater dependent ecosystems, and fish habitat. It may also lead to more funding to support needed restoration work to improve the Russian River and tributaries ability to support instream recharge to groundwater, groundwater dependent ecosystems, and fish

habitat which increases local drought resiliency. Supports Corrective Action 4 required by DWR for GSP Update. This project is funded under a grant from CDFW and will be launching in FY25-26.

**Fiscal Impact**

The GSA anticipates collecting \$643,860 in GSA fee revenue, plus an assumed reimbursement from CDFW for the ISWGDE work in the amount of \$471,700 in addition to an opening cash balance estimated at \$218,500 (total cash equals \$1,334,060 not including bad debt), \$1,139,210 in expenses, and an estimated \$179,050 in net total cash by the end of FY 2025/2026.

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**Recommended Action:** Approve of the Fiscal Year 2025 - 2026 operating budget of the Ukiah Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency.



## UKIAH VALLEY BASIN GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY

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### **GSA Administration Staff Report**

#### **Recommended Action**

*Staff recommends that the Board approve the proposed FY 2025/2026 GSA Budget.*

#### **Summary**

Staff recommends Board approval of the proposed FY 2025/2026 GSA Budget, which funds essential activities required to comply with the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) and maintain local control of the Ukiah Valley groundwater basin. The proposed budget totals \$1.32 million in revenue—a 48% increase from the prior year—driven by grant funding from the California Department of Fish & Wildlife, inflation-adjusted fee revenue, and reserve growth. Expenditures are projected at \$1.14 million, reflecting a 60% increase primarily due to the launch of the Interconnected Surface Water and Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems (ISWGDE) Study and the start of GSP Periodic Evaluation work.

#### **Background**

The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA), passed in 2014, requires the Ukiah Valley groundwater basin to prepare and implement a Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSP) that guides the Ukiah Valley basin towards sustainability. The project and management actions (PMAs) identified in the GSP are conducted for the sole purpose of complying with the requirements of SGMA. It is acknowledged that historically, this basin has operated sustainably. However, changes in water transfers from the Eel River and climate change pose certain risks that may need to be addressed in the future management of local groundwater.

GSA staff met twice with the Ad-Hoc Budget Committee (Directors Gaska and Watt) to develop the proposed FY 2025/2026 budget to fund activities needed to stay in compliance with SGMA and maintain local control of the groundwater basin. The proposed budget, summarized below, aligns with the projected budgets developed for the 2024 Fee Study and adheres to sound fiscal management principles.

#### **Revenues**

GSA revenues are expected to increase by 48% from the FY24-25 budget to a total revenue of \$1,318,260. This increase captures 1) an increase to the FY-End Reserve projected for the end of FY24-25 to \$218,500, 2) an increase in grant revenue from the California Department of Fish & Wildlife as the Interconnected Surface Water Study kicks off, and 3) a 2.2% increase to the groundwater sustainability fee to keep pace with inflation.



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Projected revenues are summarized below:

|                                    | FY24/25<br>Adopted<br>Budget | Proposed<br>FY25/26<br>Budget | Change<br>from FY<br>2024-25<br>Adopted | % Change<br>from<br>FY 2024-<br>25 |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|---|------------------------------------|
| <b>Income</b>                      |                              |                               |   |                                    |
| FY-End Reserve                     | \$91,237                     | \$218,500                     | \$127,263                               | 139%                               |
| Grants (CDFW)                      | \$214,615                    | \$471,700                     | \$257,085                               | 120%                               |
| GSA Fee Revenue                    | \$600,000                    | \$643,860                     | \$43,860                                | 7%                                 |
| Bad Debt / Delinquencies / Appeals | (\$15,990)                   | (\$15,800)                    | \$190                                   | -1%                                |
| <b>Total Income</b>                | <b>\$889,862</b>             | <b>\$1,318,260</b>            | <b>\$428,398</b>                        | <b>48%</b>                         |

### Expense

A detailed review was conducted by staff and the Ad-Hoc Budget Committee of expenses for the GSA. The agreed upon expenses were limited to those necessary to perform essential functions of the GSA for sigma compliance and the start of work on the *Interconnected Surface Waters and Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems (ISWGDE)* study. The committee reviewed the various expenses and recommended those listed in the budget in the amount of \$1,139,210, each of which is summarized below. Total expenditures are anticipated to increase by 60% from FY24-25 largely due to the initiation of the CDFW grant work and rollovers from FY24-25 for projects that were not initiated but will be initiated in FY25-26.

|   | FY24/25<br>Adopted<br>Budget | Proposed<br>FY25/26<br>Budget | Change<br>from FY<br>2024-25<br>Adopted | % Change<br>from<br>FY 2024-<br>25 |
|---|------------------------------|-------------------------------|---|------------------------------------|
| <b>GSA Administration</b>               | <b>\$ 140,515</b>            | <b>\$ 138,900</b>             | <b>\$ (1,615)</b>                       | <b>-1%</b>                         |
| County Admin (CoM)                      | \$ 5,200                     | \$ 5,500                      | \$ 300                                  | 6%                                 |
| Board / TAC Meetings (CoU)              | \$ 45,665                    | \$ 42,000                     | \$ (3,665)                              | -8%                                |
| Insurance (GSMRA)                       | \$ 2,600                     | \$ 2,800                      | \$ 200                                  | 8%                                 |
| Legal (KMTG)                            | \$ 43,250                    | \$ 45,000                     | \$ 1,750                                | 4%                                 |
| Fee Program Administration (CoU)        | \$ 16,800                    | \$ 7,600                      | \$ (9,200)                              | -55%                               |
| Levy Administration (HEC)               | \$ -                         | \$ 24,000                     | \$ 24,000                               | 100%                               |
| County Fee Costs (CoM)                  | \$ 12,000                    | \$ 12,000                     | \$ -                                    | 0%                                 |
| Administration Staffing Transition (WY) | \$ 15,000                    | \$ -                          | \$ (15,000)                             | -100%                              |



## UKIAH VALLEY BASIN GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY

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The GSA Administration budget covers all operational costs of running the agency, as detailed in section 5.1.1.1 of the GSP. This includes costs for banking with the County of Mendocino, running Board and TAC meetings, insurance, legal fees, fee program management, levy administration, and placement of the groundwater sustainability fees on the property tax bills with the County of Mendocino. Costs are no longer expected associated with the transition of administration services in FY25-26. Levy administration will be a new task which was previously captured as part of the Fee Study task under Project and Management Actions.

|   | <b>FY24/25<br/>Adopted<br/>Budget</b> | <b>Proposed<br/>FY25/26<br/>Budget</b> | <b>Change<br/>from FY<br/>2024-25<br/>Adopted</b> | <b>% Change<br/>from<br/>FY 2024-<br/>25</b> |
|---|---------------------------------------|--|---|--|
| <b>PMA Administration</b>                       | <b>\$ 80,200</b>                      | <b>\$ 85,750</b>                       | <b>\$ 5,550</b>                                   | <b>7%</b>                                    |
| GSP Implementation Oversight (CoU)              | \$ 24,000                             | \$ 10,600                              | \$ (13,400)                                       | -56%   |
| Contracts/Fiscal Management (CoU)               | \$ 33,000                             | \$ 20,200                              | \$ (12,800)                                       | -39%   |
| Outreach, Engagement and Annual Workshops (CoU) | \$ 8,700                              | \$ 3,700                               | \$ (5,000)  | -57%   |
| Grant Administration (CoU)*                     | \$ 12,000                             | \$ 45,000                              | \$ 33,000   | 275%   |
| Website/Email (CoU)                             | \$ 2,500                              | \$ 2,500                               | \$ -  | 0%   |
| Small GSA Coalition Membership Dues             | \$ -                                  | \$ 3,750                               | \$ 3,750  | 100%   |

The PMA Administration budget covers all costs associated with oversight and management of PMAs, as detailed in section 5.1.1.1 of the GSP. This includes costs for oversight of GSP contractors, contract and fiscal management, outreach activities, grant administration, and Small GSA Coalition dues. Most tasks in this budget category are expected to be reduced in cost due to the cost savings of the City of Ukiah taking on administrative duties. The Grant Administration task is anticipated to increase in budget as the CDFW grant work is launched. Small GSA Coalition Membership Dues is a new task associated with contributions to fund the Small GSA Coalition which advocates for small GSAs across the state. The Ukiah Valley Basin GSA has participated in this Coalition since its inception, but this work has previously been funded by Sonoma Water who is no longer willing to be the sole funder. Prior PMA Administration budgets included costs for grant applications, however no grant applications are anticipated in FY 25-26.



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|  | FY24/25<br>Adopted<br>Budget | Proposed<br>FY25/26<br>Budget | Change<br>from FY<br>2024-25<br>Adopted | % Change<br>from<br>FY 2024-<br>25 |
|--|------------------------------|-------------------------------|---|------------------------------------|
| <b>GSP Implementation</b>                | <b>\$ 125,250</b>            | <b>\$ 132,900</b>             | <b>\$ 7,650</b>                         | <b>6%</b>                          |
| Annual Reporting (LWA)                   | \$ 20,800                    | \$ 25,000                     | \$ 4,200                                | 20%                                |
| Technical Support (LWA + MCRCD)          | \$ 54,200                    | \$ 56,400                     | \$ 2,200                                | 4%                                 |
| As-needed Technical Support (LWA)        | \$ 20,000                    | \$ 20,000                     | \$ -                                    | 0%                                 |
| Monitoring/Data Collection (LWA + MCRCD) | \$ 30,250                    | \$ 31,500                     | \$ 1,250                                | 4%                                 |

The GSP Implementation budget covers all annual monitoring and reporting identified in section 5.1.1.2 of the GSP. This is work primarily conducted by LWA, MCRCD and CLSI. No significant budget adjustments are anticipated in this budget category aside from alignments with actual expenses from FY24-25.

|  | FY24/25<br>Adopted<br>Budget | Proposed<br>FY25/26<br>Budget | Change<br>from FY<br>2024-25<br>Adopted | % Change<br>from<br>FY 2024-<br>25 |
|--|------------------------------|-------------------------------|---|------------------------------------|
| <b>Project &amp; Management Actions</b>  | <b>\$ 365,975</b>            | <b>\$ 781,660</b>             | <b>\$ 415,685</b>                       | <b>114%</b>                        |
| <i>Periodic Evaluation Model Updates</i> | \$ 31,200                    | \$ 89,520                     | \$ 58,320                               | 187%                               |
| <i>Rate and Fee Study (HEC)</i>          | \$ 40,000                    | \$ -                          | \$ (40,000)                             | -100%                              |
| <i>GSP Periodic Evaluation</i>           | \$ 51,600                    | \$ 168,240                    | \$ 116,640                              | 226%                               |
| <i>Well Inventory Study</i>              | \$ 40,560                    | \$ 97,200                     | \$ 56,640                               | 140%                               |
| <i>Interconnected SW-GW Study*</i>       | \$ 202,615                   | \$ 426,700                    | \$ 224,085                              | 111%                               |

The Project and Management Actions budget covers all costs associated with the implementation of high priority PMAs, along with GSP update requirements detailed in section 5.1.1.2 of the GSP. These are explained in more detail below:

- **Periodic Evaluation Model Updates:** Conduct model updates in preparation for the GSP Periodic Evaluation which is due to DWR in January 2027. Model updates will support all 5 Corrective Actions required by DWR for GSP Update. While budgeted for in the FY24-25 budget, this work was not begun and will begin in FY25-26.
- **Rate and Fee Study:** This work was completed in FY24-25.
- **GSP Periodic Evaluation:** Begin GSP Periodic Evaluation development. Updates to the GSP were required in the GSP Approval Letter among the 5 Corrective Actions. While budgeted for in the FY24-25 budget, this work was not begun and will begin in FY25-26. The TAC will be providing guidance to the extent of updates.



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- **Well Inventory Study:** Develop a comprehensive inventory of wells within the Ukiah Valley Basin and update the basin model to account for additional well data that wasn't previously captured in the development of the basin model to most accurately represent the groundwater conditions and possible extraction points within the basin. This will improve groundwater modeling, future outreach efforts, and potential future fee structures. This is an important predecessor to other PMAs. It also supports All 5 Corrective Actions required by DWR for GSP Update. This work was begun in FY24-25 and will continue in FY25-26.
- **Interconnected SW-GW Study:** Fill in high-priority data gaps related to interconnected surface waters, groundwater dependent ecosystems, fish health, and water quality within the basin, and update the basin model and sustainable management criteria related to depletion of surface water. This project will help the GSA better define and prioritize PMAs to manage the basin more effectively where there's uncertainty on the future of Potter Valley Project diversions which support surface water flows, instream recharge to groundwater, groundwater dependent ecosystems, and fish habitat. It may also lead to more funding to support needed restoration work to improve the Russian River and tributaries ability to support instream recharge to groundwater, groundwater dependent ecosystems, and fish habitat which increases local drought resiliency. Supports Corrective Action 4 required by DWR for GSP Update. This project is funded under a grant from CDFW and will be launching in FY25-26.

### Fiscal Impact

The GSA anticipates collecting \$643,860 in GSA fee revenue, plus an assumed reimbursement from CDFW for the ISWGDE work in the amount of \$471,700 in addition to an opening cash balance estimated at \$218,500 (total cash equals \$1,334,060 not including bad debt), \$1,139,210 in expenses, and an estimated \$179,050 in net total cash by the end of FY 2025/2026.



**UKIAH VALLEY BASIN  
GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY (GSA)**

**STAFF REPORT**

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**SUBJECT:** Consideration of a Resolution Adopting Regulatory Fee Changes for Fiscal Year 2025 - 2026.

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**PREPARED BY:** Blake Adams, Chief Resiliency Officer

**PRESENTER:** Blake Adams, General Manager

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**ATTACHMENTS:**

1. Fee Resolution 005-2025

**Summary:** A resolution must be adopted to satisfy the County's requirement to place the adjusted fees on the tax roll, and that must happen before August 1 of each year. To satisfy this requirement allowing the Ukiah Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency to adopt its proposed budget and implement fee increases to adjust for inflation, a resolution has been prepared with support from Hansford Economic Consulting. Staff recommend that the Board adopt this Resolution adopting regulatory fee changes for Fiscal Year 2025-2026.

**Background:** The Board of Directors of the Ukiah Valley Basin GSA approved a groundwater sustainability fee on June 18, 2024, as authorized by Water Code section 10730 to fund the costs of a groundwater sustainability program, including implementation of the Ukiah Valley Basin GSP. The fee resolution (No. 005-2024) authorized the Board of Directors to adjust the maximum fee rate to be levied in future fiscal years based on the annual change in the West Region Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers ("CPI" or "CPI-U"), measured each March of the preceding calendar year, with an annual adjustment not to exceed 4% per year based on increased cost projections for each upcoming fiscal year. The prepared annual budget for the agency includes increased costs due to inflation and the West Region Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers ("CPI" or "CPI-U") from March 2024 to March 2025 was 2.24%. A 2.24 % increase of the groundwater sustainability fee would result in the rates set forth below (see Attachment 2):

\$4.16 Per Acre in GSA Boundary  
\$0.1382 Per 1,000 Gallons Extracted  
\$33.48 Per Cropped Acre  
\$35.44 Per Acre of Entire Parcel  
Percent Change from FY 2024-2025: 2.24%

**Discussion:** Staff recommends adopting the Resolution adopting regulatory fee changes for Fiscal Year 2025 - 2026.

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**Recommended Action:** Adopt the Resolution adopting regulatory fee changes for Fiscal Year 2025 - 2026.

Agenda Item: 4.b., Attachment 1

Meeting Date: June 12, 2025

**RESOLUTION NO.: 005-2025**

Dated: June 12, 2025

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE UKIAH VALLEY BASIN GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY (UVBGSA) SETTING GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY FEE FOR FY25-26.**

**WHEREAS**, the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) of 2014 provides groundwater sustainability agencies (GSAs) with the authority to impose and collect fees on all applicable properties to fund regulatory activities within the GSAs' jurisdictional boundaries; and

**WHEREAS**, the Ukiah Valley Basin GSA is the exclusive GSA over the Ukiah Valley Basin and developed a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) covering the entire basin, which the Department of Water Resources approved on July 27, 2023; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Directors of the Ukiah Valley Basin GSA approved a groundwater sustainability fee on June 18, 2024 as authorized by Water Code section 10730 to fund the costs of a groundwater sustainability program, including implementation of the Ukiah Valley Basin GSP; and

**WHEREAS**, the fee resolution (No. 005-2024) authorized the Board of Directors to adjust the maximum fee rate to be levied in future fiscal years based on the annual change in the West Region Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers ("CPI" or "CPI-U"), measured each March of the preceding calendar year, with an annual adjustment not to exceed 4% per year based on increased cost projections for each upcoming fiscal year; and

**WHEREAS**, the prepared annual budget for the agency includes increased costs due to inflation; and

**WHEREAS**, the West Region Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers ("CPI" or "CPI-U") from March 2024 to March 2025 was 2.24%; and

**WHEREAS**, a 2.24 % increase of the groundwater sustainability fee would result in the rates set forth in Attachment A; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Directors reviewed and considered the UVBGSA's Annual Budget for the period July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2026, attached hereto, and has determined that a 2.24% increase to the Groundwater Sustainability Fee is necessary to account for inflationary cost increases in the upcoming fiscal year.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF UKIAH VALLEY BASIN GSA DOES HEREBY RESOLVE AS FOLLOWS:

1. The Groundwater Sustainability Fee for Fiscal Year 2025-2026 is set at the rates identified in Attachment A on the terms and conditions set in Resolution No. 005-2024; and

2. The Agency Administrator is hereby authorized and directed to file a certified copy of this resolution with the Auditor-Controller of the County of Mendocino. Upon such filing, the County Auditor-Controller shall enter on the County assessment roll opposite each lot or parcel of land the amount of fee thereupon as shown in the levy roll. The fees shall continue to be collected at the same time and in the same manner as County taxes are collected and all the laws providing for collection and enforcement shall apply to the collection and enforcement of the assessments. After collection by the County, the net amount of the assessments, after deduction of any compensation due the County for collection, shall be paid to the Agency; and
3. The Agency General Manager is hereby authorized and directed to cause the direct billing of the fee for entities that do not receive a tax bill; and
4. The Agency General Manager and Agency Counsel are hereby authorized and directed to take such other and further steps as may be necessary or appropriate to implement the intent and purpose of this resolution.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Directors of Ukiah Valley Groundwater Sustainability Agency, this 12<sup>th</sup> day of June 2025, by the following vote:

MEMBERS:

Cline: \_\_\_\_\_ Crane: \_\_\_\_\_ Gaska: \_\_\_\_\_ McNerlin: \_\_\_\_\_ Nevarez: \_\_\_\_\_ Watts: \_\_\_\_\_

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

SO ORDERED

The within instrument is a correct copy of the original on file with this office.

ATTEST:

DATE: June 12, 2025

\_\_\_\_\_  
Theresa McNerlin

Secretary/Clerk of the Board of Directors of the Ukiah Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency,  
County of Mendocino, State of California

**Resolution 005-2025**

**Attachment A**

| Fee Component  | FY 2025 Fee | FY 2026 Fee                           |
|--|-------------|---------------------------------------|
| <b>PART 1 FEE: BASE FEE</b>  | \$4.07      | \$4.16 Per Acre in GSA Boundary       |
| <i>Every parcel is charged the base fee plus the group fee for the group the parcel is classified as [1]</i> |             |                                       |
| <b>PART 2 FEES</b>   |             |                                       |
| <b>GROUP 1 PUBLIC WATER SYSTEMS</b>  | \$0.1352    | \$0.1382 Per 1,000 gallons extracted  |
| <b>GROUP 2 CROP LAND</b>   | \$32.75     | \$33.48 Per Cropped Acre [2]          |
| <b>GROUP 3 IMPROVED PROPERTIES [4]</b>   | \$34.67     | \$35.44 Per Acre of Entire Parcel [3] |
| <b>GROUP 4 ALL OTHER</b>   | \$0.00      | \$0.00                                |

[1] Federal properties and tribal properties held in trust by the Federal government are exempt.

[2] Properties classified group 2 because of a medium, large, or nursery cannabis license capped at 1.0 acre.

[3] Residential group 3 properties capped at 0.5 acres.

[4] Improved properties not in groups 1 or 2.

*Note: The fee is automatically increased by the March to March change in the West Region Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers, as shown below.*

|                   |              |
|-------------------|--------------|
| Mar-24            | 332.202      |
| Mar-25            | 339.627      |
| Change            | 7.425        |
| <b>Percentage</b> |              |
| <b>Change</b>     | <b>2.24%</b> |



**UKIAH VALLEY BASIN GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY  
Regular Meeting**

**MENDOCINO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS CHAMBER  
501 Low Gap Road, Ukiah, CA 95482**

**Virtual Meeting Link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86074412428>**

**Ukiah, CA 95482  
April 10, 2025  
10:00 a.m.**

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**1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

The Ukiah Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (UVBGS/GSA) met at a Regular Meeting on April 10, 2025, having been legally noticed on April 3, 2025. The meeting was held in person and virtually at the following link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86074412428>. Chair Cline called the meeting to order at 10:06 a.m. Roll was taken with the following **Directors Present:** Adam Gaska, Ag Representative; Theresa McNerlin, Upper Russian River Water Agency Representative (URRWA); John Bailey, Russian River Flood Control (RRFC) District Representative (*Alternate Director for Chris Watt*); Douglas F. Crane; and Madeline Cline. **Directors Absent:** Eddie Nevarez, Tribal Representative. **Staff Present:** Blake Adams, GSA General Manager and Kristine Lawler, Ukiah City Clerk.

**Also Present:** Audra Bardsley, Camille Woickowska, and Laura Foglia, Lawrence Walker Associates; Dominic Blum-Gutierrez, Department of Water Resources (DWR); Elizabeth Salomone, Russian River Flood Control (RRFC) District; Jamie Neary, Russian Riverkeeper; Josie Slovut, Mendocino County Water Agency (MCWA); Laurel Marcus, California Land Steward Institute (CLSI); Glenn McGourty; Sean White, City of Ukiah.

*CHAIR CLINE PRESIDING.*

*The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Member McNerlin.*

**2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**Presenter:** Chair Cline.

**Motion/Second:** Crane/Gaska to approve the agenda, including moving agenda item 6a to be heard prior to agenda item 4. Motion **carried** by the following roll call votes: AYES: Gaska, McNerlin, Nevarez, Bailey, Crane, and Cline. NOES: None. ABSENT: Nevarez. ABSTAIN: None.

**3. AUDIENCE COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

*No public comments were received.*

**6. STAFF AND PARTNER UPDATES**

**a. Updates from General Manager.**

**Presenter:** Blake Adams, UVBGS/GSA General Manager.

*Presentation was received.*

**4. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ITEMS**

**a. Update Regarding the City of Ukiah Administration Services Contract.**

**Presenter:** Blake Adams, UVBGSA General Manager.

*No public comment was received.*

*Report was received.*

**b. Preliminary FY 25/26 Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) Budget Presentation.**

**Presenter:** Blake Adams, UVBGSA General Manager.

*No public comment was received.*

**Motion/Second:** Crane/McNerlin to appoint Directors Watt and Gaska to serve on a Budget Ad Hoc Committee to finalize the FY 25/26 budget. Motion **carried** by the following roll call votes: AYES: Gaska, McNerlin, Nevarez, Bailey, Crane, and Cline. NOES: None. ABSENT: Nevarez. ABSTAIN: None.

**Board Directive** for Staff to show an actuals comparison with the budget for the conversation in June.

**c. Results and Next Steps Regarding the Upper Russian River Groundwater Dependent Ecosystem and Interconnected Surface Waters Study Request for Proposals (RFP).**

**Presenter:** Blake Adams, UVBGSA General Manager.

*No public comment was received.*

**Motion/Second:** Crane/Gaska to direct Staff to proceed with vendor selection with a not-to-exceed threshold pending the results of the competitive bid process. Motion **carried** by the following roll call votes: AYES: Gaska, McNerlin, Nevarez, Bailey, Crane, and Cline. NOES: None. ABSENT: Nevarez. ABSTAIN: None.

**d. Sustainability Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) Facilitation Support Services (FSS) Implementation Service Plan.**

**Presenters:** Blake Adams, UVBGSA General Manager; Elizabeth Salomone, Mendocino County Russian River Flood Contract & Water Conservation Improvement District General Manager.

*No public comment was received.*

**Motion/Second:** Crane/Gaska to direct the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) to re-form the Facilitation Support Services (FSS) Ad Hoc Committee and engage with Stantec, the firm selected by the Department of Water Resources (DWR), to provide FSS to the Ukiah Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (UVBGSA/GSA). Motion **carried** by the following roll call votes: AYES: Gaska, McNerlin, Nevarez, Bailey, Crane, and Cline. NOES: None. ABSENT: Nevarez. ABSTAIN: None.

**e. Annual Water Year 2024 Report Results.**

**Presenters:** Blake Adams, UVBGSA General Manager and Audra Bardsley, Larry Walker Associates Senior Scientist.

**Public Comment:** Glenn McGourty.

*Report was received.*

**Chair Directive** to Staff to take into consideration the deadline for the annual report when drafting next year's meeting schedule.

**5. CONSENT CALENDAR**

**a. Approval of the Minutes for the January 9, 2025, Regular Meeting.**

**Motion/Second:** Crane/Gaska to approve the minutes for the January 9, 2025, Regular Meeting, as submitted. Motion **carried** by the following roll call votes: AYES: Gaska, McNerlin, Nevarez, Bailey, Crane, and Cline. NOES: None. ABSENT: Nevarez. ABSTAIN: None.

**6. STAFF AND PARTNER UPDATES, Continued**

**a. Updates from General Manager.**

**Presenter:** Blake Adams, UVBGSA General Manager.

**Public Comment:** Elizabeth Salomone and Dominic Blum-Gutierrez, Department of Water Resources.

*Presentation was received.*

**7. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS AND SET NEXT MEETING DATE**

**a. Discussion and Consideration of Future Agenda Items and Scheduling of Next Meeting Date with Meeting to be Held at the County of Mendocino, Board of Supervisors Chamber, 501 Low Gap Rd., Ukiah, CA 95482, at 10:00 a.m.**

**Presenter:** Chair Cline.

*No public comment was received.*

**Board Consensus** to schedule the next meeting date for June 12, 2025, at 10:00 a.m.

**Chair Directive** for Members to share calendar availability with the General Manager for preparation of the next fiscal year meeting schedule agenda item.

**Note:** Member McNerlin reported that the next meeting may be the last one with URRWA representation as they are dissolving with the new fiscal year.

**8. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:53 a.m.

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Madeline Cline, Chair

ATTEST:

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Sean White, Secretary



**UKIAH VALLEY BASIN  
GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY (GSA)**

**STAFF REPORT**

**SUBJECT:** Authorize the General Manager to Execute an Amendment to Existing Vendor Agreements with California Land Stewardship Institute (CLSI), Mendocino County Resource Conservation District (MCRCD), West Yost, and Larry Walker & Associates (LWA) Extending the Term Through June 2025, with Minor Changes to Scope and Compensation.

**PREPARED BY:** Blake Adams, Chief Resiliency Officer

**PRESENTER:** Blake Adams, General Manager

**ATTACHMENTS:**

1. CLSI Draft Scope Budget FY2526
2. MCRCD Draft Scope Budget FY2526
3. West Yost Draft Scope Budget FY2526
4. LWA Draft Scope Budget FY2526

**Summary:** Authorize the General Manager to execute amendments to existing vendor agreements with CLSI (Attachment 1), MCRCD (Attachment 2), West Yost (Attachment 3), and LWA (Attachment 4) to extend their terms through June 2025, with minor changes to scope and compensation in alignment with the proposed FY 2025/2026 budget.

**Background:** The current agreements with CLSI, MCRCD, West Yost, and LWA support ongoing GSP implementation efforts. These amendments are necessary to continue work into FY 2025/2026 and maintain compliance with SGMA requirements, as these agreements are set to expire in June, 2025. Extending terms with minor changes to scope and budget (Attachments 1-4) is necessary to ensure ongoing support.

**Discussion:** The proposed amendments as summarized in the proposed budgets and scope (Attachments 1-4), only include minor adjustments to scope with no expansion of services. In terms of budget modifications, they are minor in nature to reflect the need to update contract line item terms, such as the rate for mileage reimbursement for example. These proposed amendments extend the terms of the agreement and adjust contract scopes and budgets without increasing expenditures. These proposed budget and scopes do not constitute formal agreements, which upon authorization from the Board will be finalized in coordination with legal counsel and the Board Chair. All proposed amendments are consistent with and supported by the FY 2025/2026 GSA budget. The General Manager and associated staff have been in contact with all four vendors and have agreed to these amendments. However, there is the potential for additional negotiations to occur as a result of the drafting of amendments and any resulting impact to budget would be re-addressed and brought forward for Board consideration before execution.

**Recommended Action:** Authorize the General Manager, in collaboration with legal counsel and the GSA Board Chair, to execute amendments to existing vendor agreements

**Streamflow Gage Monitoring**  
**Ukiah Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency**  
**FY2025/2026 SCOPE OF WORK AND BUDGET**

California Land Stewardship Institute (CLSI) will provide the Ukiah Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) with streamflow gage monitoring and reporting for 2 stream gages identified in the Groundwater Sustainability Plan. CLSI will coordinate as needed with LWA, but the GSA will assure that the dataloggers at each gage are in functional order. CLSI will attend GSA Board and GSA Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meetings.

**Scope of Work: Streamflow Gage Monitoring and Reporting**

CLSI will conduct streamflow gage monitoring of the Larry Walker Associates (LWA) gages at Forsythe Creek and the West fork of the Russian River. The monitoring will complete four sets of two discharge measurements during FY 2025 wet season.

Activities will include:

Task 1

- Discharge measurements using a pygmy meter, wading rod, and Aquacalc software.
- Data download
- Administration and updates to records/general record-keeping

Task 2

- Data evaluation and preparation of final report

Task 3

- Reporting of observed data to GSA
- Attendance at GSA Board and Technical Advisory Committee meetings
- Assumes two TAC and Board meetings are in person
- Coordination with LWA for streamflow gage maintenance

Deliverables:

1. Biannual reporting of streamflow gage data to GSA
2. Quarterly reports on the progress of the data collection during wet season, if any
3. Attendance at GSA and GSA TAC meetings

**Budget**

| UVBGSA Streamflow Gage Monitoring 7/1/25 – 6/30/26 |                                  |       |           |         |             |
|--|----------------------------------|-------|-----------|---------|-------------|
| Task   | Task Item                        | Qty   | Unit Type | Rate    | Subtotal    |
| 1  | Discharge Measurements           | 58    | Hours     | \$72.00 | \$4,176.00  |
| 1  | Mileage                          | 820.5 | Miles     | 0.655   | \$537.43    |
| 1  | Administration                   | 5.1   | Hours     | \$87.00 | \$441.09    |
| 2  | Data Evaluation and Final Report | 20    | Hours     | \$72.00 | \$1,440.00  |
| 3  | Attend Board and TAC Meetings    | 33    | Hours     | \$87.00 | \$2,871.00  |
| 3  | Mileage                          | 816   | miles     | \$0.655 | \$534.48    |
|  |                                  |       |           | Total   | \$10,000.00 |

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## EXHIBIT B

### PAYMENT TERMS

1. CONSULTANT shall be compensated on a time-and-expense basis, not to exceed Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000). This fee shall not be exceeded without the prior written authorization from the UVBGSA General Manger and approval by the Board.
2. CONSULTANT shall submit invoices no less than quarterly, detailing the specific services provided and clearly explaining any incidental charges.
3. UVBGSA shall pay CONSULTANT for all work requested upon the satisfactory completion of said work.
4. Payments for work completed by CONSULTANT will be made by UVBGSA within 30 days of receipt of CONSULTANT's invoice.

[END OF PAYMENT TERMS]

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**Groundwater Elevation and Groundwater Quality Monitoring  
Ukiah Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency  
FY 25-26 DRAFT SCOPE OF WORK AND BUDGET**

Mendocino County Resource Conservation District (MCRCD) will provide the Ukiah Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) with groundwater elevation monitoring for 26 wells and groundwater quality sampling for nine wells as identified in the Groundwater Sustainability Plan according to a schedule created for the GSA by consultants Larry Walker Associates (LWA), and reporting associated with all monitoring. MCRCD will also coordinate as needed with LWA and attend GSA and GSA Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meetings.

**Scope of Work:**

**Task 1: Groundwater Elevation Monitoring and Data Collection for 26 wells:**

MCRCD will collect groundwater elevation monitoring data for nine (9) wells monthly, four (4) wells every other month, and thirteen (13) wells twice per year. The monitoring schedule is detailed in Tables 1 and 2, below.

Activities will include:

- Communication with well owners to arrange visits and answer questions
- Manual groundwater elevation monitoring
- Updates to records/general record-keeping
- Submission of data to the SGMA portal and reporting of data to GSA (monthly data reporting and quarterly reports)
- Attendance at GSA Technical Advisory Committee meetings
- Coordination with consultants regarding the status of wells, telemetry equipment and assistance with equipment problems
- Bookkeeping

Deliverables:

1. Collection and reporting of monthly groundwater elevation data
2. Quarterly reports on the progress of the data collection
3. Attendance at GSA TAC meetings

**Task 2: Groundwater quality sampling for nine (9) wells (UVBGSA-01a,b,c; UVBGSA-06a,b,c,d; UVBGSA-05; and UVBGSA-07): one time only for five constituents (specific conductivity, nitrate, iron, boron, manganese)**

MCRCD will contract Blaine Tech or comparable contractor to collect ten (10) groundwater quality samples for nine (9) wells, one time during the fiscal year. The tenth sample will be collected at the same sampling event and will be a duplicate set for one well as a quality control measure. The wells are identified in Table 1, below.

Activities will include:

- Contracting with Blaine Tech for groundwater quality sampling
- Coordination with landowners for access to wells
- Collection of ten (10) water quality samples at nine (9) wells for nitrate, specific conductivity, iron, manganese, and boron, including one set of duplicate samples at one well for quality control
- Coordination of sample testing at Alpha Labs or equivalent
- Reporting the results to the GSA
- Coordination with consultants as needed

Deliverables:

1. Results of one-time water quality samples for nitrate, specific conductivity, iron, manganese, and boron from nine wells

**Table 1. Monitoring Schedule for Individual Wells**

| <b>UVBGSA Groundwater Elevation and Groundwater Quality Monitoring<br/>Schedule FY 25-26</b> |   |   |                   |
|--|---|---|-------------------|
| <b>Well Name</b>   | <b>Groundwater Elevation<br/>Monitoring Frequency</b> | <b>Groundwater Quality<br/>Sampling Frequency</b> | <b>RMP Status</b> |
| Ukiah Valley-1   | Monthly until instrumented, then every other month    |   | RMP               |
| Ukiah Valley-2   | Jan, Mar, May, Jul, Sep, Nov                          |   | not RMP           |
| Ukiah Valley-3   | Jan, Mar, May, Jul, Sep, Nov                          |   | not RMP           |
| Ukiah Valley-4   | Jan, Mar, May, Jul, Sep, Nov                          |   | not RMP           |
| Ukiah Valley-9   | Monthly   |   | not RMP           |
| Ukiah Valley-15  | Monthly (data from City of Ukiah)                     |   | not RMP           |
| Ukiah Valley-16  | Monthly   |   | not RMP           |
| Ukiah Valley-17  | Monthly   |   | not RMP           |
| Ukiah Valley-18  | Monthly   |   | not RMP           |
| Ukiah Valley-25  | Monthly   |   | not RMP           |
| Ukiah Valley-26  | Mar, Sep  |   | RMP               |
| Ukiah Valley-32  | Monthly   |   | RMP               |
| Ukiah Valley-34  | Mar, Sep  |   | not RMP           |
| Ukiah Valley-36  | Monthly (data from City of Ukiah)                     |   | proposed RMP      |
| Ukiah Valley-37  | Monthly (data from City of Ukiah)                     |   | not RMP           |
| Ukiah Valley-10a   | Mar, Sep (data from CA Land Stewardship Institute)    |   | RMP               |
| UVBGSA-01a   | Mar, Sep  | once a year                                       | not RMP           |
| UVBGSA-01b   | Mar, Sep  | once a year                                       | not RMP           |
| UVBGSA-01c   | Mar, Sep  | once a year                                       | not RMP           |
| UVBGSA-02  | Mar, Sep  |   | not RMP           |
| UVBGSA-05  | Mar, Sep  | once a year                                       | not RMP           |
| UVBGSA-06a   | Mar, Sep  | once a year                                       | not RMP           |
| UVBGSA-06b   | Mar, Sep  | once a year                                       | not RMP           |
| UVBGSA-06c   | Mar, Sep  | once a year                                       | not RMP           |
| UVBGSA-06d   | Mar, Sep  | once a year                                       | not RMP           |
| UVBGSA-07  | Mar, Sep  | once a year                                       | not RMP           |

**Table 2. Monitoring Schedule by Month**

|                                  | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|----------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Number of Monthly Wells          | 9   | 9   | 9   | 9   | 9   | 9   | 9   | 9   | 9   | 9   | 9   | 9   |
| # of wells every other month     | 4   |     | 4   |     | 4   |     | 4   |     | 4   |     | 4   |     |
| # of biannual wells              |     |     | 13  |     |     |     |     |     | 13  |     |     |     |
| Total wells each month           | 13  | 9   | 26  | 9   | 13  | 9   | 13  | 9   | 26  | 9   | 13  | 9   |
| Field hours allocated per person | 3.5 | 3.5 | 8   | 3.5 | 4.5 | 3.5 | 4.5 | 3.5 | 8   | 3.5 | 4.5 | 3.5 |

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## EXHIBIT B

### PAYMENT TERMS

1. CONSULTANT shall be compensated on a time-and-expense basis, not to exceed Thirty Five Thousand Six Hundred Twenty Two Dollars and Sixty Cents (\$35,622.60). This fee shall not be exceeded without the prior written authorization from the UVBGSA General Manger and approval by the Board.
2. CONSULTANT shall submit invoices no less than quarterly, detailing the specific services provided and clearly explaining any incidental charges.
3. UVBGSA shall pay CONSULTANT for all work requested upon the satisfactory completion of said work.
4. Payments for work completed by CONSULTANT will be made by UVBGSA within 30 days of receipt of CONSULTANT's invoice.

[END OF PAYMENT TERMS]

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**ATTACHMENT 1 TO EXHIBIT B**

| <b>UVBGSA Groundwater Elevation Monitoring 7/1/25-6/30/26</b>  |     |           |             |                     |
|--|-----|-----------|-------------|---------------------|
| <b>Task 1: Groundwater Elevation Monitoring for 26 wells: 13 monthly, 13 twice per year</b>  |     |           |             |                     |
|  | Qty | Unit Type | Rate        | Amt                 |
| Communication with well owners   | 12  | hours     | \$ 115.00   | \$ 1,380.00         |
| Monitoring (2 people in the field)   | 108 | hours     | \$ 115.00   | \$ 12,420.00        |
| Updating records   | 30  | hours     | \$ 115.00   | \$ 3,450.00         |
| Reporting: monthly data and quarterly reports  | 30  | hours     | \$ 115.00   | \$ 3,450.00         |
| GSA TAC Meetings   | 8   | hours     | \$ 115.00   | \$ 920.00           |
| Coordination with consultants and GSA  | 18  | hours     | \$ 115.00   | \$ 2,070.00         |
| Bookkeeping  | 12  | hours     | \$ 115.00   | \$ 1,380.00         |
| Mileage (50 miles/monitoring event x 12 months)  | 720 | miles     | \$ 0.670    | \$ 482.40           |
| Supplies: replacement water level meter, alcohol, gloves   | 1   | lump sum  | \$ 700.00   | \$ 700.00           |
| <b>Subtotal Task 1 Groundwater Elevation Monitoring</b>  |     |           |             | <b>\$ 26,252.40</b> |
| <b>Task 2: Groundwater quality sampling for nine (9) wells (UVBGSA-01a,b,c; UVBGSA-06a,b,c,d; UVBGSA-05; and UVBGSA-07): one time only; five constituents (Sp conductivity, nitrate, iron, boron, manganese)</b> |     |           |             |                     |
|  | Qty | Unit Type | Rate        | Amt                 |
| Project management (contracting, reporting and record-keeping, landowner/consultant coordination)  | 18  | hours     | \$ 115.00   | \$ 2,070.00         |
| Contractor: water quality sampling   | 1   | lump sum  | \$ 4,500.00 | \$ 4,500.00         |
| Alpha Labs analyses (2024 prices: \$276 each per well, plus one duplicate for quality control)*  | 10  | lump sum  | \$ 276.00   | \$ 2,760.00         |
| Mileage  | 60  | miles     | \$ 0.670    | \$ 40.20            |
| <b>Subtotal Task 2 Water Quality Sampling Monitoring</b>   |     |           |             | <b>\$ 9,370.20</b>  |
|  |     |           |             |                     |
| <b>TOTAL</b>   |     |           |             | <b>\$ 35,622.60</b> |

## Administrative Services

## Ukiah Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency

## FY 2025/2026 SCOPE OF WORK AND BUDGET

West Yost (WY) will provide the Ukiah Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) with the following CONSULTANT administrative support services in coordination with the General Manager and the City of Ukiah for a period of 6 months (July 1, 2025 to December 31, 2026):

West Yost will support the General Manager on an hourly cost basis upon written request, by:

1. Board and Committee Meetings: Preparing meeting materials, attending meetings and completing meeting follow-up administrative tasks.
2. Attend Technical Advisory Committee Meetings: Preparing meeting materials, attending meetings and completing meeting follow-up administrative tasks.
3. GSP Implementation Oversight: Conducting administrative work required for GSP implementation, including:
  - Directing Technical Consultants
  - Reviewing Executive Order well permit applications
  - Annual Report and Project Management Action (PMA) coordination
  - Legal Coordination
  - Miscellaneous support and engagement meetings
4. Fiscal and Contract Management: Supporting contract and invoice management, monthly financial reporting and annual GSA budget preparation.
5. Website and Email and Maintenance: Costs associated with maintaining the GSA website and email service.
6. Administration and Management of RFS Implementation: Supporting Rate and Fee implementation, which includes coordinating with the county, water purveyors, billings and appeals.

EXHIBIT B – PAYMENT TERMS, first bullet has been modified as follows:

1. The Consultant shall be compensated on a time-and-expense basis not-to exceed thirty thousand dollars for the term of the Agreement, to be billed in accordance with the Billing Rate Schedule, included below as Attachment 1 to Exhibit B. This fee shall not be exceeded without the prior written authorization from the UVGSA.

Samantha Adams \$352 per hour

Harry Starkey \$336 per hour

Indigo Banister \$237 per hour

Sabrina Marson \$224 per hour

Jenna Geslo \$141 per hour

DRAFT

1480 Drew Avenue  
Suite 100  
Davis, CA 95618

530.753.6400  
530.753.7030 fax

www.lwa.com



June 6, 2025

Blake Adams  
General Manager, UVBGSA  
Email: badams@cityofukiah.com  
300 Seminary Ave  
Ukiah, CA 95482  
Office 707-463-6752

### **On Call technical services for the Ukiah Valley Groundwater Sustainability Agency**

Dear Mr. Adams,

We appreciate the opportunity to provide this proposed scope of services to the Ukiah Valley Groundwater Sustainability Agency to support the technical work needed for compliance with SGMA.

The LWA on call scope of work includes, but is not limited to, the following tasks:

- Task 1: Attendance (Virtual) of Board and TAC meetings to provide technical guidance
- Task 2: Preparation of the WY 2025 Annual Report
- Task 3: Technical support: supervise data collection, support the GSA with data reporting to DWR, coordinate data collection effort with CLSI and MCRC
- Task 4: As-needed technical Support: Other GSP related technical support as requested by the UVBGSA General Manager in writing

## Schedule and Cost Estimate

Table 1 summarizes the projects tasks described above and the associated budget for the Fiscal Year 2025/26.

**Table 1. Budget**

| <b>Proposed FY25/26 Budget</b>                      |                  |
|---|------------------|
| <b>GSP Implementation</b>                           | <b>\$ 75,000</b> |
| Meetings attendance and preparation (Board and TAC) | \$ 15,000        |
| Annual Reporting                                    | \$ 25,000        |
| Technical Support                                   | \$ 25,000        |
| As-needed Technical Support                         | \$ 10,000        |

LWA welcomes the opportunity to discuss the scope and cost estimate. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at [lauraf@lwa.com](mailto:lauraf@lwa.com).

Sincerely,



Laura Foglia  
Vice President



LARRY WALKER ASSOCIATES, INC.

Rate Sheet Effective July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026

| TITLE                           | HOURLY RATE | REIMBURSABLE COSTS                               |                             |
|---------------------------------|-------------|--|-----------------------------|
| Administrative                  | \$82        | <b>Travel</b>                                    |                             |
| Contract Manager                | \$155       | Local Mileage                                    | Current IRS Rate            |
| AR/AP Manager                   | \$155       | Auto Rental                                      | Actual Expense              |
| Graphic Designer                | \$142       | Room   | Actual Expense              |
| Project Engineer/Scientist I-C  | \$150       | Subsistence and Per Diem Meals <sup>(1)</sup>    | Current GSA Rate            |
| Project Engineer/Scientist I-B  | \$176       | Breakfast  | Current GSA Rate            |
| Project Engineer/Scientist I-A  | \$202       | Lunch  | Current GSA Rate            |
| Project Engineer/Scientist II-B | \$221       | Dinner   | Current GSA Rate            |
| Project Engineer/Scientist II-A | \$248       | Incidentals                                      | Current GSA Rate            |
| Senior I                        | \$269       | <b>Report Reproduction and Copying</b>           |                             |
| Senior II                       | \$289       | Per Color Copy, In-House                         | \$0.89                      |
| Associate I                     | \$304       | Per Black and White Copy, In-House               | \$0.08                      |
| Associate II                    | \$324       | Per Binding, In-House                            | \$1.95                      |
| Vice President                  | \$342       | Special Postage and Express Mail                 | Actual Expense              |
| Executive Vice President        | \$357       | Third-Party Material Preparation                 | Actual Expense              |
| Senior Executive                | \$368       | Other Direct Costs                               | Actual Expense              |
| President                       | \$368       | <b>Daily Equipment Rental Rates (Daily Rate)</b> |                             |
|                                 |             | Single Parameter Meters & Equipment              | \$30.00                     |
|                                 |             | Digital Flow Meter                               | \$60.00                     |
|                                 |             | Multi-Parameter Field Meters & Sondes            | \$100.00                    |
|                                 |             | RTK-GPS, River Surveyor, Tracer Study Equipment  | \$250.00                    |
|                                 |             | Multi-Parameter Continuous Remote Sensing        | \$40.00                     |
|                                 |             | Field Rig (Field Vehicle and All Equipment)      | \$200.00                    |
|                                 |             | <b>Subcontractors</b>                            | Actual Expense Plus 10% Fee |

March 2025

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**Appendix 1. Resumes**

**Appendix 2. Required Forms**

## 2.0 DESCRIPTION OF QUALIFICATIONS

As demonstrated by the qualifications and supporting information listed below, the Larry Walker Associates Team (LWA Team) is uniquely and effectively positioned to assist the Ukiah Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (UVB-GSA or GSA) with evaluating groundwater-dependent ecosystem (GDE) and interconnected surface water (ISW) dynamics in the Upper Russian River (URR) watershed. LWA has been a trusted technical leader in the groundwater-surface water management area for over a decade and has been at the forefront of water resource management efforts in California for more than 45 years.

- **Experience with Groundwater-Surface Water Interconnection Studies:** Our Team brings extensive experience characterizing groundwater-dependent ecosystems and surface water interconnection, particularly in systems supporting salmonids like Chinook salmon and steelhead in California watersheds.
- **Expertise in Monitoring and Modeling:** The LWA Team has demonstrated excellence in all key aspects of the project, including biological surveys, telemetered sensor networks, specialized geochemical analyses, and integrated hydrological modeling, as outlined in the Scope of Work.
- **California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) Grant Experience:** Our Team has successfully managed more than a dozen projects funded through CDFW grants, ensuring compliance with rigorous data management requirements and scientific integrity policies.
- **Successful Collaboration with Stakeholders and Tribes:** We have proven experience incorporating stakeholder and Tribal input into monitoring networks and water resource management planning efforts.
- **Technical Capabilities:** The LWA Team possesses the technical expertise required for all project components, including updating the Ukiah Valley Integrated Hydrological Model (UVIHM) to assess various management scenarios under different climate conditions, installation operation and maintenance of telemetered sensor networks, and development of an interactive data management system.
- **Record of Meeting Schedules and Budgets:** Our Team has consistently delivered similar technical studies on time and within budget, with the capacity to complete this project by the March 2028 deadline.
- **Strong References:** The LWA Team has supportive client references from similar GSP-related projects, as provided in **6.0. References**.
- **Efficient Access to the Ukiah Valley Basin (UVB or Basin):** Key LWA Team members including the proposed project manager live within a two-hour drive of Ukiah and are prepared to quickly mobilize for UVB-GSA and community meetings, field work, and instrument installation.

### 2.1 Larry Walker Associates

Larry Walker Associates, Inc. (LWA) is a privately owned S corporation and Women-Owned Business Enterprise providing environmental engineering and management services throughout California. Headquartered in Davis, California (1480 Drew Ave, 100, Davis, CA), LWA has regional offices in Yreka, Berkeley, San Diego, Santa Monica, and Ventura and an office in Seattle, Washington. For more than 45 years, LWA has been a partner, innovator, and industry leader, assisting public agencies in navigating and solving complex environmental and public policy challenges.

Since the adoption of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) in 2014, **LWA has developed six Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs), all completed on time and approved by DWR.** We currently provide GSP implementation support in more than 10 basins, focusing on the critical data collection and monitoring networks that form the foundation for sustainable groundwater management.

LWA's technical expertise directly aligns with the URR GDE/ISW Study requirements, with a staff of over 75 staff, with a team of over 15 specializing in groundwater-surface water integrated modeling, geochemical analysis, water quality monitoring, and comprehensive data management that meets CDFW's scientific integrity standards. Our Team has extensive experience implementing all aspects of SGMA, particularly in characterizing groundwater-dependent ecosystems and analyzing surface water interconnections critical for supporting sensitive fish species like the Chinook salmon and steelhead found in the Upper Russian River watershed.

LWA has over 20 years of experience designing, installing, and operating real-time telemetered water monitoring networks across California—expertise directly applicable to Task 1 of this request for proposals (RFP). Our experience includes installing over 200 continuous sensor systems, including 20 streamflow stations, uniquely positioning our Team to effectively and efficiently install continuous sensors to measure temperature and water levels in the specified wells and to develop the expanded monitoring network required for this study.

Of particular relevance to this project, LWA has worked with the UVBGS in the URR watershed since 2018, developing and implementing the GSP that this study will enhance. We have established productive relationships with key Basin stakeholders through ongoing stakeholder engagement and coordination, including agricultural representatives, municipalities (City of Ukiah), and tribal representatives. This existing network and familiarity with the Basin will enable efficient implementation of the stakeholder and Tribal input requirements specified in the project.

Our experience building, updating and running integrated hydrological models, including the UVIHM specified in Task 2, will allow our Team to immediately begin the project with no lag time and without duplicating the efforts of existing projects.

## 2.2 Stillwater Sciences



Stillwater Sciences is a 100-person scientific consulting firm with specialists in aquatic and terrestrial biology, wetland and restoration ecology, water quality, geomorphology, hydrology, engineering, and spatial analysis. Stillwater uses science-based technical approaches to water resource management and has been conducting hydrologic, geomorphic, riparian, and ecological studies for nearly 30 years. Our scientists and engineers have been actively engaged in evaluating ecological and geomorphic characteristics of groundwater basins throughout California river systems and provide keen insight into habitat linkages to the overall aquatic ecosystem, including sensitive species and habitats. Stillwater staff use a combination of field data collection, field- and GIS-based modeling, and analytical methods to support project orientation and conceptual model development, determination of current site conditions, interpretation of past and predictions of future site conditions, interdisciplinary problem-solving and project planning.

Stillwater is leveraging its scientific expertise to understand the impacts of groundwater management on GDEs throughout California. Our Team has assessed GDEs and evaluated their hydrologic needs in eight GSPs and the five-year update for one alternative GSP. Stillwater developed and is currently implementing a post-GSP monitoring plan for ISW and GDEs in the Napa Valley Subbasin. The Stillwater Team is developing projects to use pumped groundwater to supplement important GDEs in the Fillmore and Piru groundwater basins during droughts. The Stillwater Team is also evaluating the presence of steelhead (*O. Mykiss*) using environmental DNA. Stillwater scientists have also published on GDEs in the journal *Fremontia* and Stillwater staff have monitored anadromous fish throughout the western U.S.

## 2.3 DBS&A



DBS&A is a water resources, environmental, and engineering consulting firm. Our firm's scientists and engineers provide a broad range of services to assist water managers, water purveyors, and natural resource entities with optimal development, use, and management of groundwater and surface water resources, including water resources planning, water supply development, managed aquifer recharge, water recycling and reuse, water infrastructure engineering, water rights, hydrologic analyses and modeling, water quality investigations and treatment, and watershed and stormwater management.

DBS&A developed a comprehensive, web-accessible environmental database management system (DMS/DBMS) called GLA-Data to store, visualize, map, manage, and report environmental data. Since 2007, we have been a leader in the development of environmental DMS/DBMS. Our developers have continuously enhanced our systems, incorporating new technology to meet clients' evolving needs. GLA-Data now serves more than 20 clients across the western U.S., helping clients make vast amounts of technical data readily accessible and easy to analyze. New applications based on our existing platform can be rolled out quickly at a reasonable cost.

Key features include:

- Dashboard-style user interfaces through a web browser.
- Map-based geographic information system integration.
- Interactive data visualization tools.
- Automated reporting capabilities.
- Multiple data export options.
- Tiered login credentials for enhanced security.
- 24/7 downtime monitoring.
- Routine security updates and backups.

DBS&A has in-house expertise in developing customized information management solutions to assist clients with managing data-related environmental, natural resource, and infrastructure projects and programs. We have developed data management systems that enable remote users to access, manipulate, map, and interpret vast amounts of data with a user-friendly, web-based interface. We use standard industry software and integrate data with project-related documents for simplified analysis and interpretation. With a web-based platform, every team member can access the same information simultaneously or individually from their desktop.

## 2.4 University of California Cooperative Extension



UCCE Mendocino County is part of the UC Agriculture and Natural Resources (UC ANR) network, dedicated to delivering science-based solutions to local challenges. As a key link between UC research and the Mendocino community, UCCE Mendocino has provided research, education, and outreach for over a century and it serves as a hub for

agriculture, natural resources, community development, and youth programs, helping to sustain and enhance the County's socioeconomic resilience. Within UCCE Mendocino, the Water and Climate Change Program tackles critical environmental challenges through research and education. Our program studies extreme climate events such as droughts and floods, integrated water resources management, environmental flows, surface-groundwater interactions, water quality assessments, and social-ecological resilience in watersheds. Additionally, the program actively engages with the community by providing science-based education and resources to support informed decision-making. Through workshops, technical assistance, and collaborative projects, it helps Tribes, landowners, farmers, and local governments implement water policies, advance water management strategies, conservation measures, and climate adaptation strategies.

**Table 1. LWA Team Relevant Project Experience**

| Project Experience<br>Reference Provided <sup>1</sup><br>Project Description Provided <sup>2</sup>   | Services Identified in the Scope of Work |                                 |   |                     |                                |  |                                     |                                  |                                | Firm |                           |
|--|--|---------------------------------|---|---------------------|--------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|------|---------------------------|
|  | Monitoring Plan Development              | Aerial/Field Biological Surveys | Design Expanded Integrated Surface Water Monitoring Network | Tribal Coordination | Continuous Sensor Installation | Hydrological Model Scenarios and Updates | Water Resource Management Reporting | Data Management Plan Development | Board/TAC Member Participation |      | Grant Reporting/Invoicing |
| Scott Valley Irrigation District (SVID) Recharge Project, CA <sup>1,2</sup>  | •  | •                               | •   |                     | •                              |  | •                                   |                                  |                                | •    | LWA                       |
| Creating Long-Term Water Supply Resiliency for Ukiah Valley and Upper Russian River, CA <sup>1,2</sup>   | •  |                                 | •   |                     | •                              | •  | •                                   | •                                | •                              | •    | LWA                       |
| Napa Valley Subbasin ISW and GDE Workplan and Implementation, Napa, CA <sup>1,2</sup>  | •  | •                               |   |                     |                                |  | •                                   |                                  | •                              | •    | Stillwater                |
| Ukiah Groundwater Sustainability Plan and On-Call Technical Services, Ukiah, CA <sup>2</sup>   | •  |                                 | •   | •                   | •                              | •  | •                                   | •                                | •                              | •    | LWA & WLC                 |
| Fillmore and Piru Groundwater Subbasins Interconnected Surface Water Analysis, CA <sup>2</sup>   | •  |                                 | •   |                     |                                | •  | •                                   | •                                | •                              |      | DBS&A                     |
| Groundwater Quality Monitoring and Reporting, St. Helena, CA   | •  |                                 | •   |                     | •                              | •  | •                                   | •                                |                                | •    | LWA                       |
| Sierra Valley Groundwater Sustainability Plan Development, Plumas and Sierra Counties, CA  | •  |                                 |   | •                   |                                | •  | •                                   | •                                | •                              |      | LWA & WLC                 |
| County of Siskiyou Developing and Implementing Groundwater Sustainability Plans for the Shasta, Scott, and Butte Valley Groundwater Basins, Siskiyou, CA | •  |                                 |   | •                   |                                | •  | •                                   | •                                | •                              |      | LWA & WLC                 |
| South American Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan Development, Sacramento, CA  | •  |                                 |   | •                   |                                | •  | •                                   | •                                | •                              |      | LWA & WLC                 |
| The Nature Conservancy, Framework for Coho Salmon Habitat Restoration in Lower Ten Mile River, CA  | •  | •                               |   | •                   |                                |  |                                     |                                  | •                              | •    | Stillwater                |

## 2.5 Similar Project Experience

The following project descriptions feature select efforts demonstrating our expertise in monitoring plan development, sensor updates and installation, water resource management reporting and data management plan development. These examples highlight our collaborative approach, technical excellence, and consistent delivery of exceptional results.

| Project 1. Creating Long-Term Water Supply Resiliency for Ukiah Valley and Upper Russian River |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| Completed By   | LWA                                   |
| Client Name  | California Land Stewardship Institute |
| Years of Service   | 2024-Present                          |

This US Bureau of Reclamation WaterSMART grant-funded project aims to create a comprehensive water management solution for Upper Russian River communities through the enhancement of the existing UVIHM and development of an innovative Decision Support Tool (DST). The project addresses critical water management challenges by combining advanced modeling capabilities with practical, user-friendly tools for stakeholders.

The UVIHM integrates three sophisticated models: the USGS Precipitation-Runoff Modeling System (PRMS), USGS Modular Groundwater Flow Model (MODFLOW), and DWR Integrated Water Flow Model Demand Calculator (IDC). This integrated approach enables precise simulation of surface and groundwater interactions across the Upper Russian River watershed. The project will enhance this existing framework through:

- Automated data integration from public sources (NOAA, USGS, DWR) for annual model updates.
- Incorporation of high frequency sensor data for groundwater level and streamflow from Ukiah Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency monitoring network.
- Implementation of climate scenario modeling capabilities.
- Incorporation of multi-faceted management scenarios informed by climate conditions and surface water availability.
- Development of groundwater pumping zones to visualize potential impacts of pumping on surface water resources.

The project includes a range of climate scenario modeling, combined with projected changes to release volumes and timing from Lake Mendocino and inter-basin water transfers from the Eel River. These scenarios will help stakeholders understand potential impacts and effectiveness of various management strategies, from water rights curtailment and conservation measures to construction of off-stream storage ponds. A key project outcome is the development of a DST with online user interface that will provide critical water resource information to water system managers, farmers, and stakeholders. The DST will offer:

- An accessible web-based interface suitable for a diverse set of users.
- Interactive visualization of water management scenarios under a variety of climate conditions.
- Guidance on pumping rates and locations to minimize streamflow impacts.
- Community engagement is integrated throughout the project through a Technical Steering Committee, ensuring that local knowledge and stakeholder needs are incorporated into the tool's development. The final product will be a sustainable, maintainable system that can be updated annually.

This project provides a data-driven, scientifically rigorous approach to water resource management in the Upper Russian River Watershed while maintaining accessibility for all stakeholders.

## Project 2. Scott Valley Irrigation District (SVID) Recharge Project

|                         |                                  |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <b>Completed By</b>     | LWA                              |
| <b>Client Name</b>      | Scott Valley Irrigation District |
| <b>Years of Service</b> | 2021-Present                     |

The CDFW-funded Scott Valley Irrigation District (SVID) pilot recharge project aims to apply 5,400 acre-feet of water to agricultural fields for recharge from January through March and assess the resulting instream flow benefits to key salmonid habitat in the Scott River. This is accomplished through a threefold approach that combines physical measurements, geochemical monitoring, and integrated hydrologic modeling. LWA has developed applications for and has received 180-day temporary permits for underground storage from the State Water Board for 2022-2025.



Water is diverted from the Scott River under qualifying flow conditions through the existing earthen SVID irrigation ditch and distributed to agricultural fields for recharge to the aquifer.

The project has three core monitoring components that are conducted in tandem to gage the potential benefits of managed SVID recharge:

**Physical monitoring** through a network of telemetered high-frequency groundwater level, temperature, and streamflow sensors that help to track the movement of water and quantify recharge benefits. Instrumentation includes two stream gages in Scott River, located upstream and downstream of the point of diversion, and five stream gages in the SVID ditch. In addition, the study leverages existing observation wells and has installed two additional shallow well transects near Scott River to understand groundwater gradient fluctuations in response to recharge.

**Geochemical monitoring** helps characterize the timing and locations of interconnection in the Scott River adjacent to and downstream of the recharge sites. Time series Radon-222 and stable isotope of water samples are collected along a transect comprised of six Scott River monitoring locations. These naturally occurring environmental tracers shed light on shifting water source contributions to river discharge through time and the relative importance of localized groundwater inputs to streamflow. Targeted subsurface streambed sampling helps to confirm periods when monitoring sites gaining conditions.

**Biological monitoring** carried out on the daily basis in coordination with Siskiyou County RCD to ensure fish are not harmed by high flow diversions for on-field recharge.

Monitoring results are being used to calibrate and validate integrated hydrological modeling that simulates the impacts of managed recharge on basin water budgets and ultimately key salmonid habitat.

**Project 3. Napa Valley Subbasin ISW and GDE Workplan and Implementation**

|                         |   |
|-------------------------|---|
| <b>Completed By</b>     | Stillwater Sciences   |
| <b>Client Name</b>      | Napa County Groundwater Sustainability Agency, as a subconsultant to Luhdorff & Scalmanini Consulting Engineers |
| <b>Years of Service</b> | 2022-Present  |

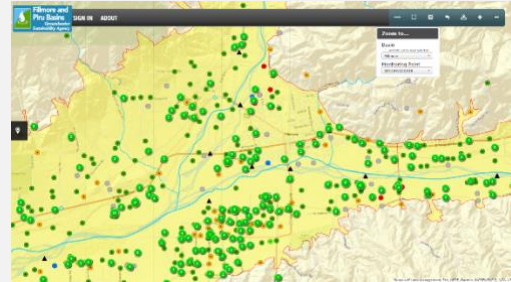
SMGA requires that impacts on ISW and GDEs be considered part of GSPs. This is particularly important in the Napa River, where ISW maintains dry season flows that are crucial for aquatic species living there. However, developing sustainable management criteria for ISW requires understanding the spatial and temporal patterns of ecosystem usage in the basin and the linkage between groundwater levels, surface flow, and habitat. The impact of groundwater levels on ISW on GDEs was identified as a data gap in the Napa Subbasin GSP. Stillwater Sciences and our project partners developed the ISW and GDEs workplan for the Napa Valley Groundwater Subbasin to address this data gap. The Workplan addressed data gaps to better understand and quantify existing and historical streamflow characteristics and how they relate to GDE health in the Napa Valley Subbasin. The Workplan identified GDEs within the subbasin based on statewide databases and past biological studies in the watershed. The work plan includes hydrologic and biological surveys and incorporates the scientific components of the California Environmental Flows Framework (CEFF). A prioritization metric was developed to identify six intensive survey sites for implementation of the Workplan based on hydrologic record, ecologic importance (a function of the number of special-status species life stages that use the site), and other considerations (i.e., stream restoration, uniqueness of the site). The Napa Valley Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Agency adopted the Workplan in March 2024 and outlines studies through 2031.

Workplan implementation began in May 2024. Stillwater Sciences conducted field surveys with access permission for northwestern pond turtles, foothill yellow-legged frog, California freshwater shrimp, and vegetation health at the four intensive survey sites. The presence of northwestern pond turtles and foothill yellow-legged frog were also assessed using environmental DNA sampling. Stillwater scientists also coordinated with the Napa RCD on steelhead habitat assessment, including snorkel surveys, continuous stream temperature and dissolved oxygen measurements, and monthly wet-dry mapping of the survey reaches. Hydrological data collected at each intensive site includes groundwater elevation, vertical groundwater gradients, stream stage, and thalweg elevation profiles. Subsequent surveys will assess special-status plants and birds at intensive sites. The 2024 biological and hydrological data and groundwater model results are being integrated into a CEFF analysis, which will help determine ecosystem water needs at the six intensive sites and support the development of sustainable management criteria for the depletion of ISW.

### Project 4. Fillmore and Piru Groundwater Subbasins Interconnected Surface Water Analysis

|                         |                |
|-------------------------|----------------|
| <b>Completed By</b>     | DBS&A          |
| <b>Client Name</b>      | Ventura County |
| <b>Years of Service</b> | 2019-Present   |

During GSP development, DBS&A performed an evaluation of possible ISWs within the Fillmore and Piru subbasins. Our approach was multi-faceted and included a review and comparison of critical habitat designations by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s (NOAA) National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS or NOAA Fisheries) and beneficial uses identified by the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (LARWQCB). Biological reports for the endangered Southern California Steelhead, the primary driver of aquatic conservation efforts in the area, were reviewed to determine their presence or absence in specific reaches. Surface water information and relationships to groundwater data collected by the United Water Conservation District (UWCD or United) was also evaluated as the Santa Clara River that flows through both basins is naturally ephemeral, which adds additional challenges to quantifying the location, timing, and a quantity of streamflow depletion required by SGMA. A plan to address ISW data gaps in the subbasins was developed and is currently being implemented, with data made publicly available through the Fillmore and Piru Basins DMS.



### Project 5. Ukiah Groundwater Sustainability Plan and On-Call Technical Services

|                         |                        |
|-------------------------|------------------------|
| <b>Completed By</b>     | LWA                    |
| <b>Client Name</b>      | Ukiah Valley Basin GSA |
| <b>Years of Service</b> | 2022-Present           |

Between 2018-2022 LWA successfully led development of the Ukiah Valley Basin GSP, which was submitted to DWR in January 2022 and received DWR approval in July 2023. The cornerstone of this effort was the creation and calibration of an Integrated Hydrological Model for the Upper Russian River watershed, which enabled simulation of various climate and management scenarios. The team conducted comprehensive stakeholder engagement throughout the process to ensure local control of groundwater management while meeting SGMA requirements.

Beginning in 2022, LWA transitioned to an On-Call Technical Support role and has provided comprehensive technical and regulatory support for GSP implementation in the Ukiah Valley Basin, working in close partnership with the GSA staff, general manager, Board of Directors, and Technical Advisory Committee.

**Key tasks include, but are not limited to:**

- GSP Annual Report preparation integrating data from a broad cross-section of partner agencies and monitoring networks to assess progress towards achieving SMCs.
- Telemetered monitoring network management, maintenance and expansion, including groundwater level and streamflow sensors with data visible on a custom dashboard and integrated into an automated QAQC process.

- Grant proposal development, including a successful submission to California Department of Fish and Wildlife for an Interconnected Surface Water Study (\$1.36 M awarded in October 2024).
- Interpretation and prioritization of DWR's recommended corrective actions ahead of the 2027 Periodic GSP Evaluation.
- Data aggregation to support Rate and Fee Study development.
- Development and implementation a Phase I Well Inventory focused on collection, aggregation, and informed revision of well location and construction information followed by identification of data gaps and recommendations for addressing those data gaps in subsequent phases.

The LWA team provides regular technical presentations to the UVBGSA Board of Directors, Technical Advisory Committee, and stakeholders to ensure transparent communication of GSP implementation progress and challenges.

### 3.0 PROPOSED RESPONDENT TEAM

The LWA Team brings together highly qualified professionals with extensive experience in CDFW grant funded project implementation, GDE and ISW analyses, integrated hydrological modeling, telemetered sensor network installation, and database management. Each team member has been strategically selected based on their specialized expertise, regional knowledge, and proven track records with similar projects throughout California. The following biographies highlight our key staff's qualifications, demonstrating the depth and breadth of experience they bring to UVBGS. Detailed resumes are provided in **Appendix 1. Resumes**.

As Project Manager, Dr. Bardsley will coordinate staff and subcontractors to ensure seamless delivery of all project components. The two Technical Advisors will support Dr. Bardsley in developing comprehensive monitoring plans, guiding hydrological modeling updates, and ensuring scientific rigor in all technical analyses and management recommendations.

We have confirmed the Team's full availability and commitment through project completion. LWA will notify UVBGS staff in writing to receive approval for any change to the project team.

#### Staff Biographies

**Audra Bardsley, Ph.D.**  
Senior Scientist, LWA

**Role: Project Manager**

Responsibilities:

- Primary POC for UVBGS staff
- Oversee quality control and final document preparation

**Education: Ph.D., Geochemistry, University of Southern California**

**Dr. Bardsley** is an aqueous geochemist with over ten years of experience assisting public agencies with water resource management challenges. As a Senior Scientist at LWA, she provides technical, regulatory, and project management support to groundwater and stormwater clients across California. Dr. Bardsley has developed particular expertise in SGMA compliance and supports GSP implementation in five basins, where she provides unique insights with her isotopic and geochemical knowledge. She manages multidisciplinary teams that tackle complex projects by combining advanced technical tools like integrated

hydrologic modeling with an appreciation of local conditions to inform water management strategies. As a former county government employee and faculty member with the USC Environmental Studies Program, she's able to effectively bridge the gap between scientific insights and practical, policy-relevant solutions.

**Laura Foglia, Ph.D.**  
Vice President, LWA

**Role: Technical Advisor**

**Education: Ph.D. in Environmental Engineering, ETH Zurich**

**Dr. Foglia** is a Vice President assisting with projects in hydrological modeling, groundwater management assistance, and managed aquifer recharge. At LWA, she leads the groundwater services for the UVBGS, the implementation of Groundwater Sustainability Plans for Siskiyou County, Sierra Valley and the South American Subbasin Sacramento Central Groundwater

Authority. She is designing and implementing groundwater recharge projects for the Omochumne-Hartnell Water District, the Scott Valley Irrigation District, the Dunnigan Water District, and other small districts throughout Northern California. Since January 2016, Dr. Foglia has also been an adjunct faculty member in the Land, Air, and Water Resources (LAWR) Department at the University of California, Davis, where she teaches a graduate class on groundwater models and model calibration.

**Will Lewis**

Senior Hydrologist, LWA

**Role: Technical Advisor & Task Lead**

Education: M.S., Environmental Science and Management, University of California, Santa Barbara

**Mr. Lewis** is a hydrologist affiliated with LWA. Mr. Lewis has over 21 years of experience working with government agencies in the field of integrated water resource management with a focus on the application of computational tools to evaluate groundwater-surface water interactions and complex watershed processes across California. Most recently, he has been involved in efforts to enhance PRMS platforms under GSP

revision efforts across the State of California to ensure that models can be used to support management and climate change scenario evaluation moving forward.

**Jeffrey Walker, Ph.D., PE**

Engineer, LWA

**Role: Tasks 1 & 2 Support**

Education: Ph.D., Electrical Engineering &amp; Computer Sciences, University of California, Berkeley

**Dr. Walker** focuses on environmental real-time continuous remote sensing technology and applications. He has developed a versatile sensor platform based on data loggers, cellular modem telemetry, and various sensors including both discrete sensor elements, and multi-parameter data sondes. The systems are designed for rapid deployment at surface or groundwater sites or

paired with a GPS receiver for mixing zone studies or other mapping applications. Real time data is typically posted to an internal web site for use by the project team. The platform enables effective deployment of sophisticated web-enabled, real-time remote sensor equipment even for many small or short-term projects. This sensor technology has proven valuable in complementing traditional monitoring methods, enabling efficient and rapid understanding of parameters of interest within a watershed.

**Gerald O'Neill, CHG, PG**  
Project Scientist, LWA**Role: Tasks 1 & 2 Support**

Certifications: Certified Hydrogeologist, California, No. 886; Professional Geologist, California, No. 8186

Education: B.S., Geosciences, Pennsylvania State University

**Mr. O'Neill** has over 30 years of experience as an environmental and water resources consultant. He specializes in groundwater hydrology and modeling and has contributed significantly to numerous projects involving hydrogeologic characterization, evaluation of the effectiveness of artificial recharge in agricultural, desert and urban settings, remediation of contaminated groundwater, and water resources management.

**Andrew Calderwood, Ph.D.**

Project Engineer, LWA

**Role: Tasks 1 & 2 Support**

Education: Ph.D., Physical Hydrology

**Dr. Calderwood** serves as a Project Engineer with specialized expertise in groundwater modeling, recharge project implementation, and GSP development. Drawing on five years of experience in groundwater condition assessment and monitoring, Dr. Calderwood leads the development and

continuous refinement of integrated hydrologic models to support regional groundwater planning and sustainability initiatives. His technical leadership spans multiple groundwater basins, including serving as task lead for loosely coupled MODFLOW-PRMS models in Shasta Valley and Butte Valley, where he successfully navigated GSP submissions that received state approval. Dr. Calderwood's project portfolio includes managing groundwater recharge initiatives for the Omochumne-Hartnell Water District, where he oversees monitoring equipment, prepares measured data for board review, and handles temporary diversion permit reporting and renewals with state agencies. His innovative work integrating California statewide Airborne electromagnetic survey data with existing groundwater models has enhanced the

representation of stream-aquifer interactions for the Cosumnes River Levee Setback project, directly contributing to improved flood risk reduction and managed aquifer recharge opportunities. Dr. Calderwood regularly presents complex groundwater modeling concepts to diverse stakeholders, effectively communicating the benefits of managed recharge and sustainable groundwater management practices throughout California.

#### Camille Woicekowska

Project Scientist, LWA

**Role:** Tasks 1 & 2 Support

**Education:** B.A., Environmental Earth Science, 2022, University of California, Berkeley

**Ms. Woicekowska** is a Project Scientist with a wealth of experience in environmental analysis, computer science, and data visualization. As a research assistant at the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, Ms. Woicekowska utilized high performance computing systems to perform simulations that provided valuable insights into fluid systems and their dynamics. She worked with large

datasets from simulations and field studies, developing scripts in Python to effectively process, analyze, and visualize the information. At LWA, Ms. Woicekowska supports groundwater projects, with a particular focus on MODFLOW models for GSPs. In addition, she contributes compliance support for stormwater reporting and field monitoring for stormwater and groundwater.

#### Ben Melechin

Project Scientist, LWA

**Role:** Tasks 1 & 2 Support

**Education:** B.A., Earth Sciences, 2022, University of Southern California

**Mr. Melechin** is a Project Scientist with specialized expertise in ISW studies and groundwater sustainability. Drawing on his geochemical background, Mr. Melechin leads field teams in conducting specialized sampling of radioisotopes and water chemistry to identify groundwater-surface water interactions across multiple watersheds. Mr.

Melechin's technical proficiency extends to analyzing stable water isotopes and major ions to identify different water source contributions, constructing comprehensive data visualizations through GIS mapping, and supporting GSP implementation in multiple basins across California.

#### Chris Dory

Project Scientist, LWA

**Role:** Tasks 1 & 2 Support

**Education:** M.S., Hydrology, University of California, Davis

**Mr. Dory** serves as a Project Scientist specializing in environmental data analysis, advanced instrumentation, and water resource management. With an M.S. in Hydrology from UC Davis, he applies Python and R programming to develop custom data analysis solutions for environmental monitoring. His relevant experience includes leading

continuous surface water monitoring systems, spearheading data collection and analysis for streamflow improvement in Scott and Shasta River Valleys and supporting interconnected surface water identification for sustainable management criteria. Mr. Dory's field experience covers groundwater sampling, installation of acoustic groundwater level sensors with telemetry, and implementing quality control procedures for environmental mapping. His ability to communicate technical concepts has facilitated effective stakeholder engagement with local residents and tribal members regarding groundwater use curtailments on livelihoods and cultural traditions.

Stillwater Sciences

**Christian Braudrick, Ph.D.**  
Senior Geomorphologist, Stillwater

**Role:** Tasks 1 & 3 Support

**Education:** Ph.D., Earth and Planetary  
Science, University of California, Berkeley

**Dr. Braudrick** is a geomorphologist with over 26 years of extensive experience in river and floodplain systems as both an environmental consultant and researcher. Throughout his career at Stillwater Sciences, where he has served for 13 years, Dr. Braudrick has established himself as a leading expert in the interconnection between hydrological processes and ecological systems.

His comprehensive knowledge spans fluvial geomorphology, GDEs, hillslope processes, and sediment transport dynamics. Dr. Braudrick has pioneered methodologies for assessing the complex relationships between groundwater systems and surface ecology, becoming instrumental in developing GSPs across numerous California watersheds. As project manager for multiple groundwater sustainability initiatives, Dr. Braudrick has successfully implemented the California Environmental Flows Framework to evaluate impacts on aquatic species, developed drought mitigation strategies for riparian ecosystems, and utilized remote sensing technologies to monitor vegetation health in groundwater-dependent systems.

**Bruce Orr, Ph.D.**  
Principal Ecologist, Stillwater

**Role:** Tasks 1 & 3 Support

**Education:** Ph.D., Aquatic  
Entomology/Aquatic and Wetland  
Ecology, University of California, Berkeley

**Dr. Orr** is a Principal/Senior Ecologist with over 40 years of experience leading complex natural resource projects throughout the western United States. During his 29-year tenure at Stillwater Sciences, Dr. Orr has established himself as a preeminent authority in riparian and wetland ecology, restoration planning, and GDEs. Dr. Orr has been instrumental in pioneering Stillwater Sciences' approach to assessing GDEs under the SGMA

serving as project director for multiple groundwater sustainability plans across California, including the Fillmore and Piru Basins, Owens Valley, and Madera and Chowchilla watersheds. Dr. Orr holds multiple permits for working with sensitive species, including a USFWS recovery permit for California freshwater shrimp and CDFW collecting permits for various aquatic species.

**Esther Adelstein**  
Hydrologist, Stillwater

**Role:** Tasks 1 & 3 Support

**Education:** M.S., Earth and Planetary  
Science, University of California, Santa  
Cruz

**Ms. Adelstein** is a seasoned hydrologist with 6 years of professional experience and comprehensive expertise in numerical modeling, data analysis, geospatial analysis, water quality field methods, and technical writing. As a key team member at Stillwater Sciences for the past 5 years, Ms. Adelstein has established herself as a specialist in groundwater flow modeling using various platforms including MODFLOW, GSFLOW, and FEHM.

Her technical proficiency extends to complex data analysis using Python and MATLAB, advanced GIS applications, Google Earth Engine for environmental monitoring, and time-series data management through AQUARIUS. Ms. Adelstein has made significant contributions to numerous groundwater sustainability planning projects across California, where she applied her expertise in hydrogeology to assess groundwater-dependent ecosystems, develop sustainable management criteria, and implement monitoring networks for interconnected surface water systems.

**AJ Keith**  
Senior Aquatic Ecologist, Stillwater

**Role:** Tasks 1 & 3 Support

**Education:** M.A., Ecology and Systematic  
Biology, San Francisco State University

**Mr. Keith** is a Senior Aquatic Ecologist with 34 years dedicated to fisheries ecology and aquatic resource management throughout California. During his 29-year tenure at Stillwater Sciences, he has established himself as a specialist in analyzing water and land management impacts while developing effective restoration and recovery strategies for native aquatic species. He excels

in managing multidisciplinary conservation projects for sensitive aquatic resources, with particular emphasis on collaborative approaches involving diverse stakeholders. His recent work has focused on evaluating GDEs for GSPs, conducting comprehensive fisheries monitoring in watershed systems like the Napa River, and developing habitat improvement designs for endangered Southern California steelhead in the Los Angeles River watershed.

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| <p><b>Holly Burger</b><br/>Senior Wildlife Specialist, Stillwater</p> <p><b>Role:</b> Tasks 1 &amp; 3 Support</p> <p><b>Education:</b> B.S., Biology, Baldwin Wallace University</p> | <p><b>Ms. Burger</b> is a Senior Wildlife Biologist at Stillwater Sciences with 23 years of experience in aquatic and terrestrial biology with focused experience in special-status species surveys, biological resource evaluations, impact analyses, and mitigation and monitoring planning.</p> <p>Ms. Burger holds the following permits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• USFWS 10(a)1(A) recovery Permit #148552-4 for giant garter snake, Alameda whipsnake, San Francisco garter snake, and California red-legged frog;</li> <li>• USFWS 10(a)1(A) recovery Permit #98536C-1 for Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog and California tiger salamander (aquatic surveys);</li> <li>• CDFW Scientific Collecting Permits (SCP), Project-specific, for: SMUD (#20023-002), Balch &amp; Helms (#20023-002), and Kern [#21084-001] for northwestern pond turtle, foothill yellow-legged frog, Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog, and/or western spadefoot; and</li> <li>• CDFW Memorandum of Understanding for Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog, foothill yellow-legged frog, California tiger salamander, giant garter snake, and Alameda whipsnake.</li> </ul> |
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| <p><b>Abel Brumo</b><br/>Fisheries Biologist, Stillwater</p> <p><b>Role:</b> Tasks 1 &amp; 3 Support</p> <p><b>Education:</b> M.S., Fisheries Science, Oregon State University</p> | <p><b>Mr. Brumo</b> is a fisheries biologist with Stillwater Sciences with 23 years of experience working on projects aimed at managing and restoring anadromous fish populations in diverse watersheds across the West.</p> <p>Mr. Brumo holds the following permits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• USFWS Section 10(a)(1)(A) Permit #ES98536C for California freshwater shrimp; and</li> <li>• CDFW Incidental Take Permit (2081(a))/Memorandum of Understanding for California freshwater shrimp.</li> </ul> |
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**DBS&A**

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| <p><b>Douglas Tolley, Ph.D., PG</b><br/>Hydrogeologist, DBS&amp;A</p> <p><b>Role:</b> Task 3 Lead</p> <p><b>Education:</b> Ph.D., Hydrology, University of California, Davis</p> | <p><b>Dr. Tolley</b> is a hydrogeologist with 15 years of professional experience. He specializes in groundwater hydrology, groundwater resources, numerical modeling, contaminant transport in groundwater, environmental database management systems, workflow automation, and GIS analysis and mapping.</p> |
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| <p><b>Phoebe Nicholls</b><br/>Hydrogeologist, DBS&amp;A</p> <p><b>Role:</b> Task 3 Support</p> <p><b>Education:</b> MS, Hydrology, New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology</p> | <p><b>Ms. Nicholls</b> is a hydrogeologist and field technician at DBS&amp;A with 7 years of experience and a background in hydrology and earth sciences. She holds a Master of Science in Hydrology from the New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology which allowed her to gain experience in water quality and hydrological data. She is</p> |
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skilled in ArcGIS Pro, Python, Applied Environmental Statistics, R Statistical Software, Aquarius, and Ambient Water Quality Monitoring Systems.

### Gregory Buczek

Database Architect, DBS&A

Role: Task 3 Support

Education: BA, Psychology and Sociology,  
Purdue University

**Mr. Buczek** is an accomplished software developer and Information Technology (IT) professional with more than 24 years of varied accomplishments, participation in numerous technologies and involvement across all aspects of software development, including numerous geo-centric web applications. Mr. Buczek developed a database management system called GLA-Data for our

parent company, Geo-Logic Associates, Inc. (GLA). He has customized GLA-Data for 17 clients (7 water resources specific) and continues to maintain and add features to the system. He provides database support for the Sierra Valley Groundwater Management District GSP and is the Senior Software Developer responsible for all front-end and back-end aspects related to the web applications associated with development of the DMS for the Owens Valley GSP and Fillmore and Piru Basins GSP.

### UCCE

### Laura E. Garza Diaz, Ph.D.

Area Water Quality, Quantity, and Climate  
Change Advisor, UCCE

Role: Tasks 1 & 2 Support

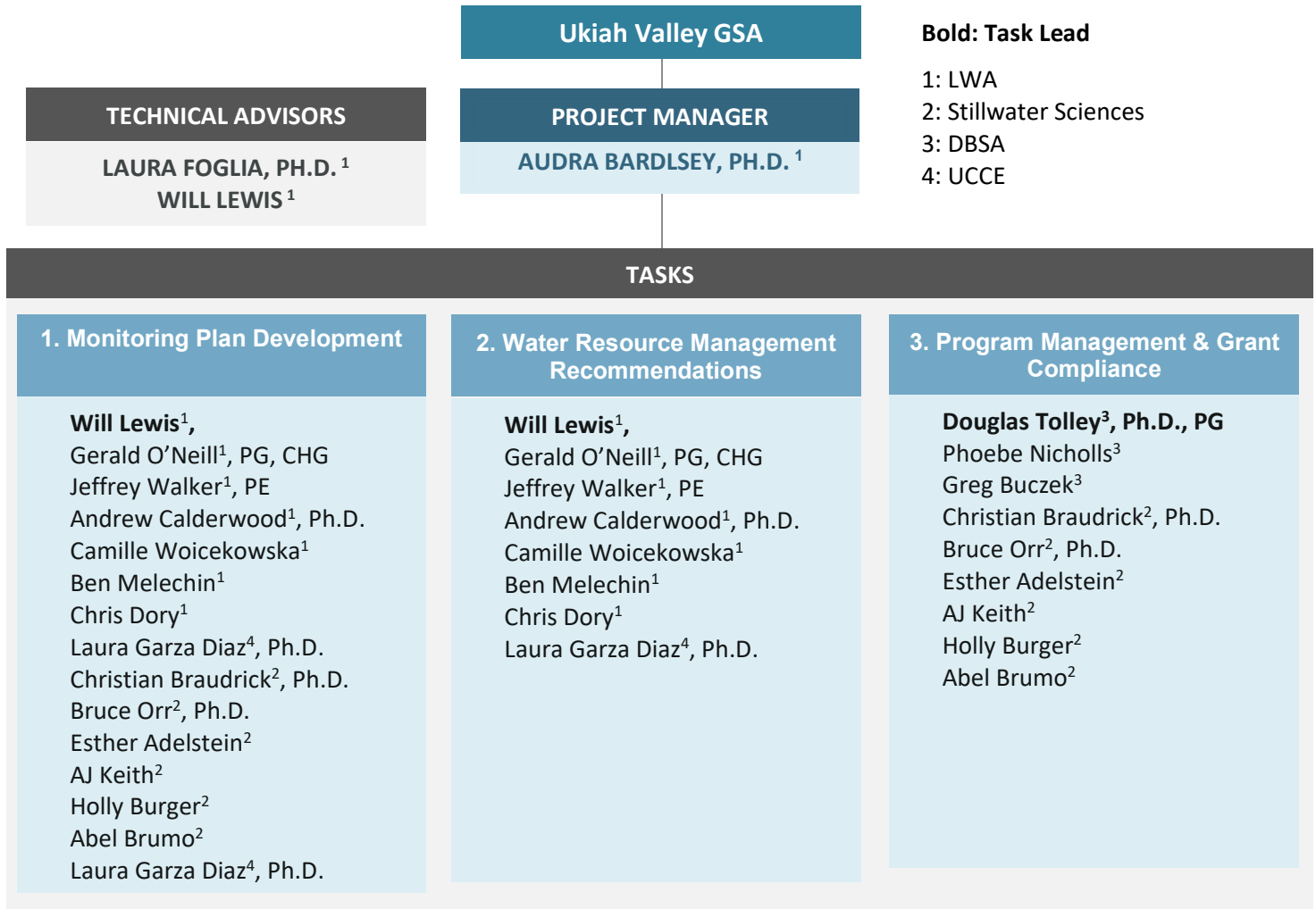
Education: Ph.D., Hydrologic Sciences,  
University of California, Davis

**Dr. Garza Diaz** is the UC Cooperative Extension (UCCE) Advisor for Water Quality, Quantity, and Climate Change in Mendocino and Lake Counties. She holds a Ph.D. in Hydrologic Sciences from the University of California, Davis, specializing in water policy and management under climate change. As a UCCE advisor, Dr. Garza has launched the water and climate change program in Mendocino and

Lake Counties, supporting projects that integrate water management under climate change, sustainable groundwater practices, well monitoring, instream and environmental flows, extreme climate events like drought and floods, and the resilience of social-ecological systems. She has built strong relationships with Tribal Nations, including the Sherwood Band of Pomo Indians and Middletown Rancheria, as well as local governments such as the Mendocino County Boards of Supervisors, the Mendocino County Department of Transportation, and the Ukiah Valley Groundwater Sustainability Agency. She also collaborates with water suppliers and districts, including Russian River Flood Control, Potter Valley Irrigation District, and the Mendocino County Resource Conservation District, along with grassroots organizations.

### 3.1 Organizational Chart

Our proposed approach brings together a multidisciplinary team of hydrologists, ecologists, and modeling specialists who combine the technical expertise required for GDE and ISW assessment with extensive experience in Russian River watershed. The organizational chart presented in **Figure 1** below provides an overview of our team structure, emphasizing our capabilities in the three core areas identified in the RFP. Team members have successfully implemented similar studies for GSAs throughout California and have specific experience with salmonid habitat assessment in the watershed. Our Team qualifications are further described in **Section 3.0 and Appendix 1. Resumes**.



**Figure 1. Organizational Structure of the LWA Team**

## 3.2 Project understanding

UVBGSA has initiated this project to advance the understanding of ISWs and GDEs in the URR watershed. Funded by the CDFW Watershed Grant Program, this study directly addresses the UVBGSA's obligations under SGMA and enhances the implementation of its GSP, which was approved by DWR in July 2023 with recommended corrective actions.

This project presents a timely opportunity to improve scientific understanding of groundwater-surface water interactions, particularly as they relate to sensitive fish species, instream flows, and long-term water management decisions. By integrating geochemical, biological, and physical monitoring with hydrological modeling, this study will characterize the spatial extent, seasonal timing, and ecological impacts of ISW under varied climate and management scenarios. The resulting insights will support adaptive water management strategies, helping UVBGSA fulfill its regulatory obligations under SGMA while safeguarding groundwater resources for both human and ecological needs.

### **Advancing UVBGSA's GSP and DWR Recommended Corrective Actions**

This study builds upon and refines the original ISW and GDE analysis conducted for the 2021 GSP, which was based on limited data and relied on groundwater elevation as a proxy for surface water connectivity. While this approach provided an initial characterization, both the GSP and DWR's 2023 Staff Report<sup>1</sup> identified the need for field-based validation and expanded monitoring to improve the accuracy of ISW and GDE assessments.

Since 2021, UVBGSA and its partners have made significant strides in addressing these data gaps. The monitoring network has been expanded, increasing spatial coverage and frequency of groundwater level measurements, and a newly completed thalweg survey of the mainstem Russian River has enhanced understanding of groundwater-surface water interactions. These improvements provide a strong foundation for a more refined, field-validated assessment of ISW and GDEs in the Basin. The April 25, 2024 Board of Directors meeting further reinforced the urgency of these efforts, with the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) prioritizing enhancing the monitoring network, conducting a Well Inventory Study, and initiating an ISW Study as key actions to be completed ahead of the 2027 Periodic Evaluation. Since that meeting, UVBGSA has instrumented three additional Representative Monitoring Point wells, initiated Phase I of the Well Inventory Study, and successfully secured CDFW grant funding to support this ISW/GDE Study. These proactive measures offset the need for additional ratepayer funding while ensuring that SGMA compliance remains on track.

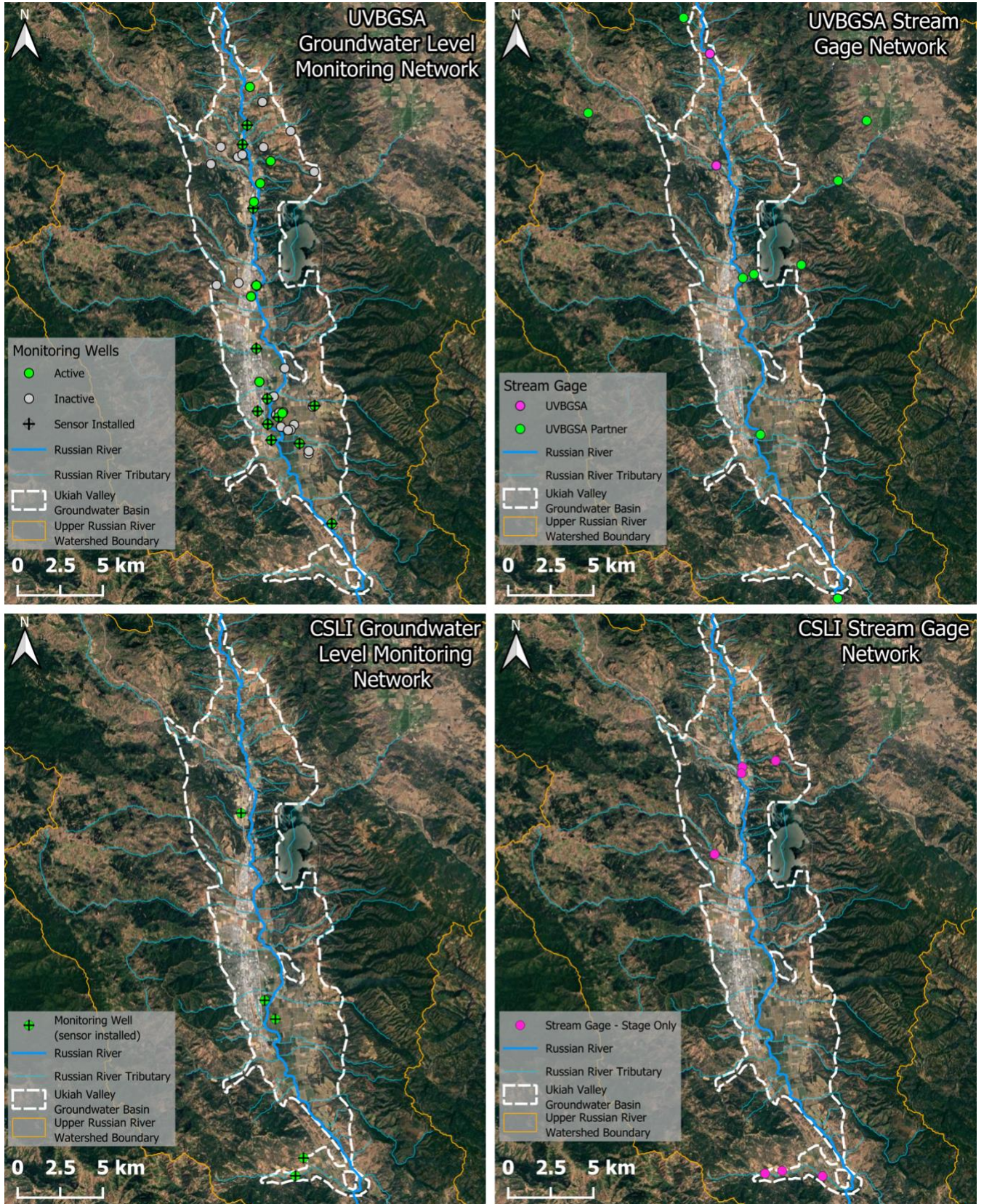
### **Leveraging the UVIHM & WaterSMART Project for Hydrological Modeling and Scenario Analysis**

This project will directly benefit from and build upon the UVIHM, which the LWA Team is currently refining through the WaterSMART-funded project, "Creating Long-Term Water Supply Resiliency for Ukiah Valley and Upper Russian River", led by the California Land Stewardship Institute (CLSI). The ongoing UVIHM improvements provide a critical opportunity to integrate new ISW/GDE data from this study into predictive modeling efforts, ensuring that groundwater-surface water interactions are more accurately represented in future scenario analyses. An overview of UVBGSA's and CLSI's groundwater level monitoring and stream gage networks is presented in **Figure 2**.

Through the WaterSMART project, CLSI has installed water level sensors in three wells outside the formal GSA network, collected extensive thalweg data for the Upper Russian River, and made

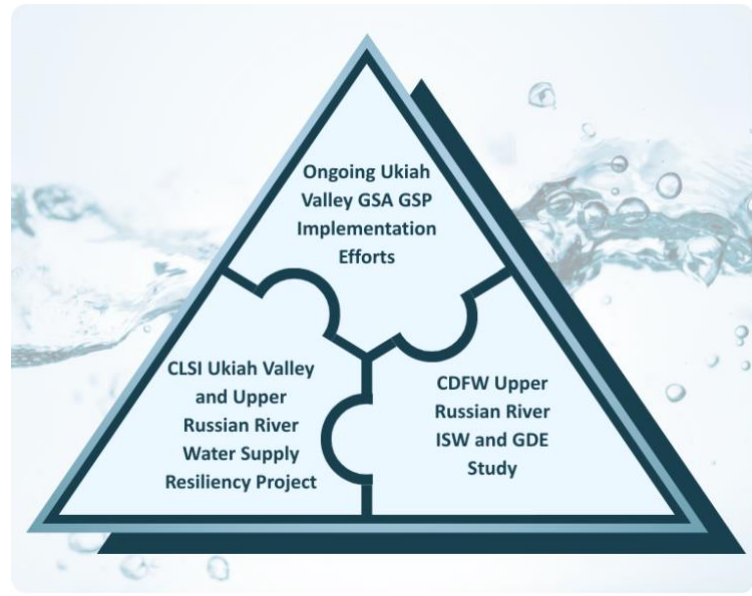
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<sup>1</sup> California Department of Water Resources: Sustainable Groundwater Management Office, *Ukiah Valley Basin GSP Determination*, July 27, 2023, <https://ukiahvalleygroundwater.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/2023-07-27-Ukiah-Valley-Basin-GSP-Determination-v2.pdf>.



**Figure 2. UVBGS and CSLI Groundwater Level and Streamflow Monitoring Networks**

enhancements to stream routing within the UVIHM. These advancements have significantly improved the model's ability to simulate surface water-aquifer interactions, but data gaps remain, particularly regarding mainstem cross-section details and Western Hills streamflow characteristics. This ISW/GDE Study provides a unique opportunity to close these gaps through expanded field data collection, including the installation of two new stream gages, up to ten groundwater level sensors with telemetry, and shallow piezometers funded through an \$80,000 allocation.



The synergy between this study and the ongoing UVIHM refinements will enable UVBGA to run management and climate scenarios that assess ISW/GDE response to changing water availability, reduced surface water inputs, and future groundwater management strategies. These analyses will directly inform the development of new SMC for ISW depletion, addressing a major corrective action identified by DWR in their 2023 Staff Report.

### **Strengthening Salmonid Habitat and Instream Flow Protection**

Beyond advancing groundwater management objectives, this study will provide critical insights to support salmonid conservation efforts in the Upper Russian River and its fish-bearing tributaries. ISWs and GDEs play an essential role in maintaining instream flows, which are vital for Chinook salmon and steelhead migration, spawning, and juvenile rearing. However, data gaps remain in identifying when and where surface water-groundwater disconnections occur, especially during dry-season low-flow periods when salmonids are most vulnerable.

This project will use high-resolution geochemical, biological, and hydrological monitoring to map seasonal patterns of groundwater discharge and aquifer-surface water exchanges, allowing for more targeted conservation efforts. The expanded monitoring network will provide essential data to support long-term ecological planning, conservation land acquisitions, and instream flow protection measures. These outcomes will directly inform regional water management decisions, ensuring that groundwater sustainability measures align with broader ecosystem protection efforts.

### **The Opportunity**

By integrating field data collection, hydrological modeling, and ecosystem assessments, this project will establish a strong scientific foundation for improving ISW and GDE understanding and management in the Ukiah Valley Basin. The study responds directly to SGMA requirements, DWR recommended corrective actions, and stakeholder priorities, while leveraging ongoing UVIHM enhancements and the WaterSMART project's scenario modeling capabilities. This effort will transition the ISW/GDE analysis from a proxy-based approach to a data-driven, field-validated understanding, allowing UVBGA to make more informed, adaptive water management decisions. Additionally, by supporting instream flow improvements, identifying priority conservation areas, and strengthening the scientific foundation for SMC, this study will contribute to long-term water resource resilience and salmonid habitat protection in the URR watershed.

## 4.0 PROPOSED SCOPE OF WORK

This project will follow a phased methodology grounded in both robust desktop analyses and targeted field investigations, with a strong emphasis on stakeholder collaboration and scientific rigor. The objective is to improve understanding of ISWs, GDEs, and associated fish habitats within the URR watershed, while also enhancing the UVIHM and addressing critical data gaps and agency recommendations.

### Task 1: Monitoring Plan Development

To effectively assess and monitor surface water and groundwater interactions in the Ukiah Valley Basin, this study will employ a multi-faceted, transdisciplinary approach that integrates biological surveys, hydrological assessments, and advanced geochemical monitoring techniques. By combining field-based research with geochemical tracers, continuous data collection, and stakeholder engagement, this plan will establish a comprehensive monitoring network that enhances our understanding of hydrologic connectivity and informs sustainable water management decisions for the Upper Russian River and its key fish-bearing tributaries. This task will be carried out in close collaboration with the Ukiah Valley Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA), the City of Ukiah, Tribal representatives, CDFW, and other stakeholders to ensure that the resulting expanded surface water monitoring network effectively fills existing data gaps and provides critical information for managing ISWs and GDEs.

#### Phase 1: Desktop Investigations and Community Input

The first phase will focus on desktop analyses aimed at refining our understanding of ISW and GDE distribution using updated datasets, including the extended UVIHM, newly mapped groundwater elevation contours, recent stream network improvements, and mainstem thalweg survey data. These analyses will generate updated ISW and GDE maps, summarize key geospatial data (e.g., stream slope, drainage area, confluences), and identify priority stream reaches that likely support both ISW and GDEs with adequate subwatershed representation.

Additional datasets will be compiled to further refine stream reach selection, including:

- Fish-bearing stream data from NMFS, CDFW, and DWR, cross-checked against existing literature and reports on fish passage barriers and viability in the Upper Russian River.
- Existing surface water and groundwater monitoring networks operated by the GSA, partner agencies, and researchers in the Upper Russian River watershed to ensure that new monitoring locations complement and enhance ongoing efforts.

A potential deliverable for Phase 1 is presented in **Figure 3**. This site prioritization for the Napa River was determined by ranking each potential site by the amount of hydrologic data (0-3 points), the ecological importance of the site (a function of the number of species and life stages that are likely to use the site) (0-6 pts), and site uniqueness and proximity to a stream restoration site (0-1 pts) yielding a clear visual representation of how candidate locations compare.

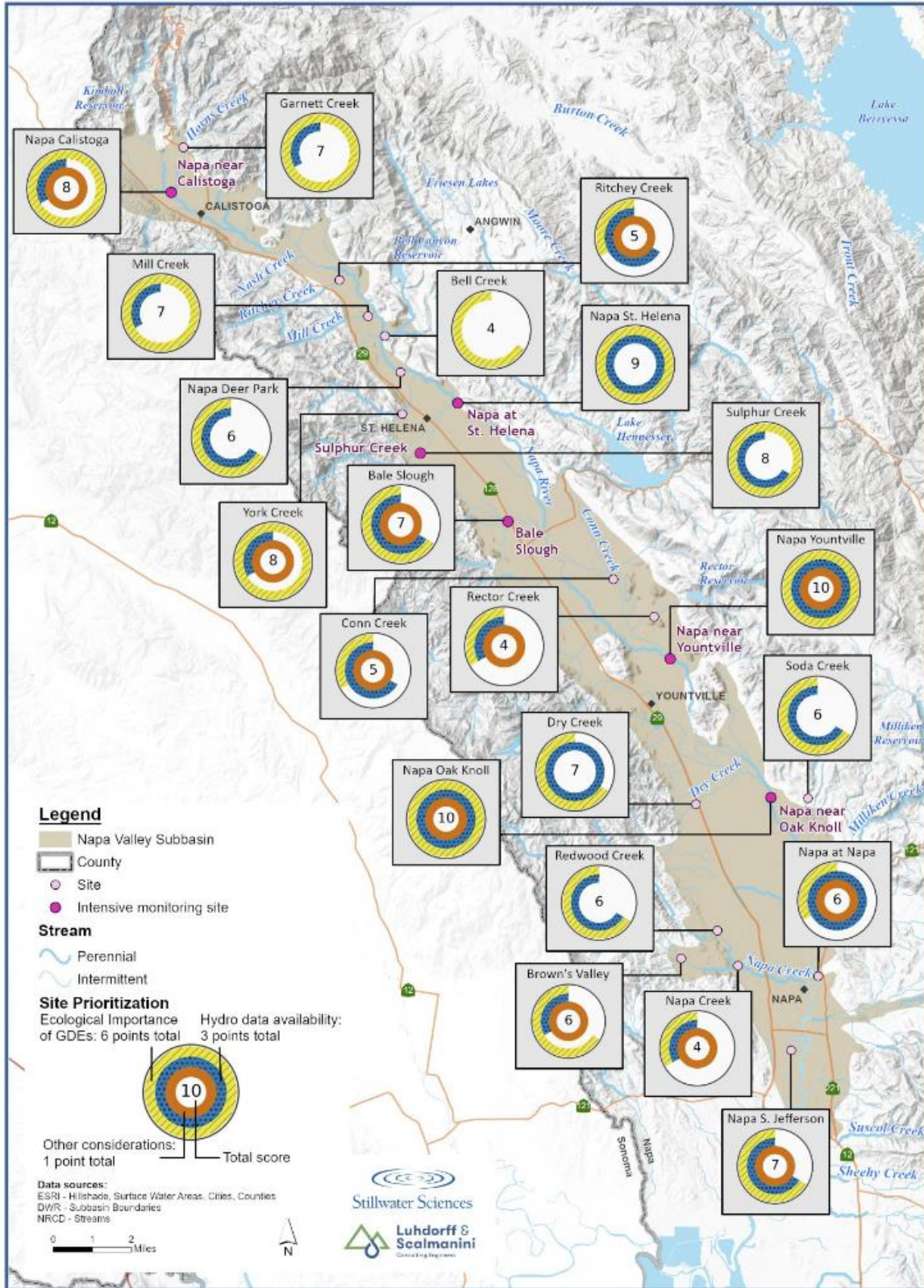


Figure 3. Site Prioritization for the Napa River Subbasin

Findings from Stillwater Sciences, including previously identified GDE locations and other relevant ecological resources will be integrated into the analysis to ensure that the monitoring plan builds on and complements existing scientific efforts. Each potential stream reach will be evaluated for feasibility, considering factors such as landowner access, logistical constraints, and health and safety considerations. In coordination with the GSA Board of Directors, the TAC, and the Mendocino County Resource Conservation District, LWA will incorporate local knowledge to refine the list of candidate stream reaches. This preliminary list will be presented at a public meeting to solicit feedback from community members, Tribal representatives, and other stakeholders. UCCE will facilitate this engagement process, leveraging their existing outreach programs and experience in organizing public meetings related to water resource management in the Basin.

## Phase 2: Site Selection, Monitoring Plan Development, and Instrumentation

Following stakeholder engagement and feasibility assessments, a final set of stream reaches will be selected for detailed investigation. This selection process will ensure that the monitoring network effectively captures ISW and GDE dynamics, provides adequate spatial coverage, and integrates with existing surface and groundwater monitoring efforts. The refined list of sites will balance scientific priorities with practical considerations such as landowner access, logistical constraints, and the need for data continuity within the Upper Russian River Basin.

A key component of this phase will involve conducting comprehensive biological surveys, including fish counts, across the selected tributaries in the UVB. These surveys will be designed to capture seasonal variations in aquatic habitat, assess fish populations, and provide essential ecological data to evaluate how groundwater-surface water interactions impact sensitive species. Using a combination of aerial imagery, drone-based imaging, and field-based fish count methods, including electrofishing, visual surveys, and eDNA sampling, the study will generate a detailed picture of fish distribution, habitat connectivity, and potential passage barriers. This information will complement hydrological and geochemical data, strengthening the ability to assess ISW and GDE responses to environmental changes.

To enhance the monitoring network, continuous water level and temperature sensors will be installed in up to ten wells, ensuring data collection in areas that are critical for understanding groundwater-surface water interactions. These wells will be strategically selected based on their proximity to ISW locations, their ability to fill gaps in the existing network, and their relevance to GDE sustainability assessments. The placement of these sensors will allow for real-time data collection that captures fluctuations in groundwater levels and temperature over time, providing a high-resolution dataset that can inform water management decisions. The installation of these sensors will be coordinated with the City of Ukiah and the GSA, ensuring that the necessary landowner access agreements are secured before deployment.

In addition to hydrological monitoring, a geochemical assessment will be conducted to refine the understanding of groundwater influx to surface waters. This effort will utilize Radon-222 time-series sampling along selected stream reaches to detect seasonal changes in groundwater discharge. The study will also incorporate stable isotope analyses and major ion chemistry to differentiate groundwater sources and quantify their contributions to streamflow. Targeted push point sampling of subsurface sediments will further help identify groundwater upwelling in gaining stream reaches. These geochemical techniques will provide an independent validation of model predictions and offer insight into the variability of groundwater-surface water interactions across different hydrologic conditions.

Upon completing the field investigations and data collection, LWA will develop a comprehensive Monitoring Plan and Baseline Monitoring Report. This document will outline the methodologies used in the study, summarize key findings from biological and geochemical assessments, and provide recommendations for long-term monitoring strategies. The report will also serve as a foundation for adaptive water management, ensuring that monitoring efforts remain relevant and effective in the face of

evolving climate conditions and water resource challenges. To facilitate ongoing integration with regional water management efforts, LWA will ensure that all analytical tools, field data, and documentation are made available to the GSA and technical staff responsible for groundwater sustainability planning. The monitoring network and datasets developed through this study will directly support UVIHM calibration, the refinement of the Groundwater Sustainability Plan, and future decision-making processes regarding ISW and GDE protections. Following a public presentation of the draft recommendations, stakeholder feedback will be incorporated into the final monitoring strategy, ensuring that the project remains responsive to local priorities and management objectives.

Examples of four potential deliverables for Phase 2 from the LWA Team's previous work are presented in Figures 4 through 6. **Figure 4** presents the results of GDE mapping for Fillmore-Piru developed using a recent vegetation map from CDFW coupled with a review of the plant associations in the literature to determine which associations were likely associated with groundwater. The connected and disconnected stream reaches were identified by Balance Hydrologics during GSP development. **Figure 5** presents an aquatic species distribution for the Eel River, which was assessed using USFWS, NOAA, and CDFW databases. Critical riffles were identified in the field by Stillwater Sciences on a previous study. **Figure 6** presents a visual representation of radon activity by reach in the Scott River watershed where a higher radon activity suggests a higher contribution of groundwater to surface waters. **Figure 7** presents a visual representation of evidence suggesting a reach of interest is gaining a reach in the Scott River Watershed based on PushPoint samples and radon activities.

By combining biological assessments, geochemical monitoring, and stakeholder collaboration, this phase of the project will establish a robust scientific foundation for understanding and protecting groundwater-dependent ecosystems and fish habitats in the Ukiah Valley Basin. The insights gained will inform long-term strategies for sustainable water resource management, ensuring that ISW and GDEs remain resilient in the face of changing environmental conditions.

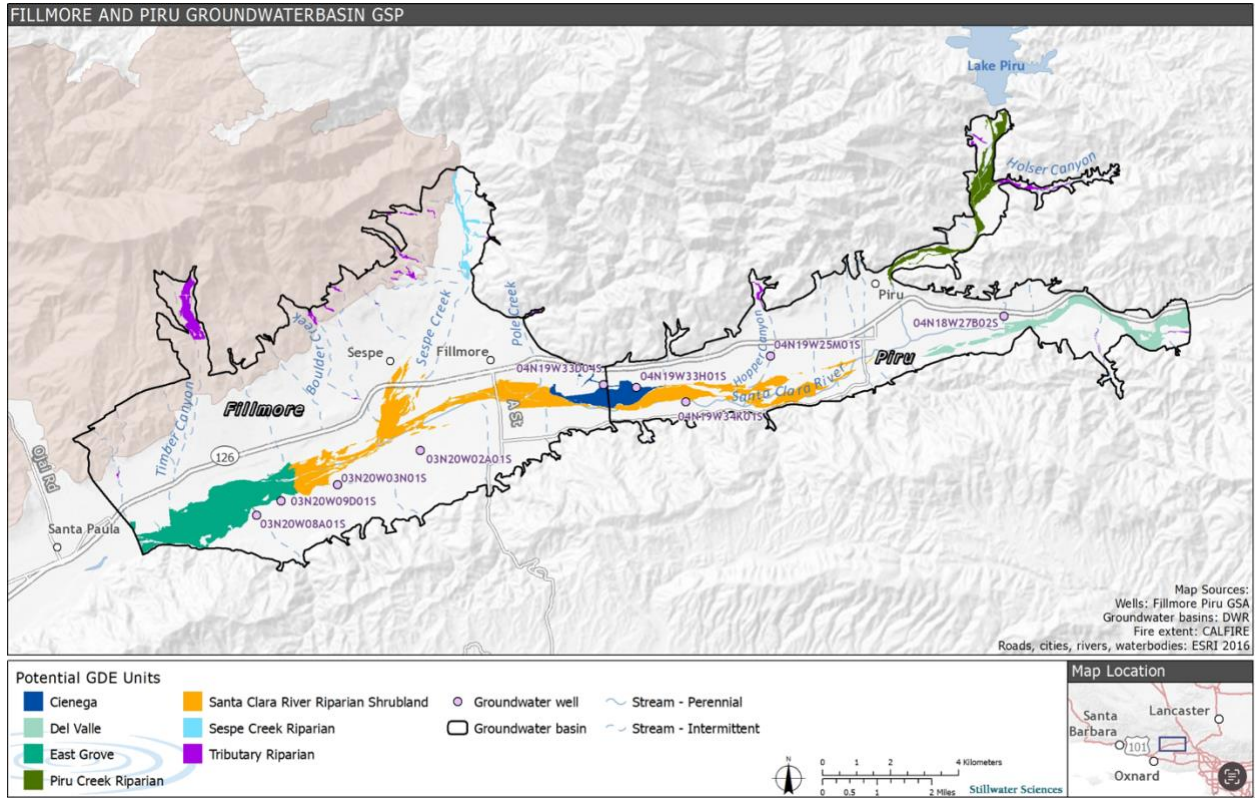


Figure 4. Groundwater Dependent Ecosystem Units in the Fillmore and Piru Basins

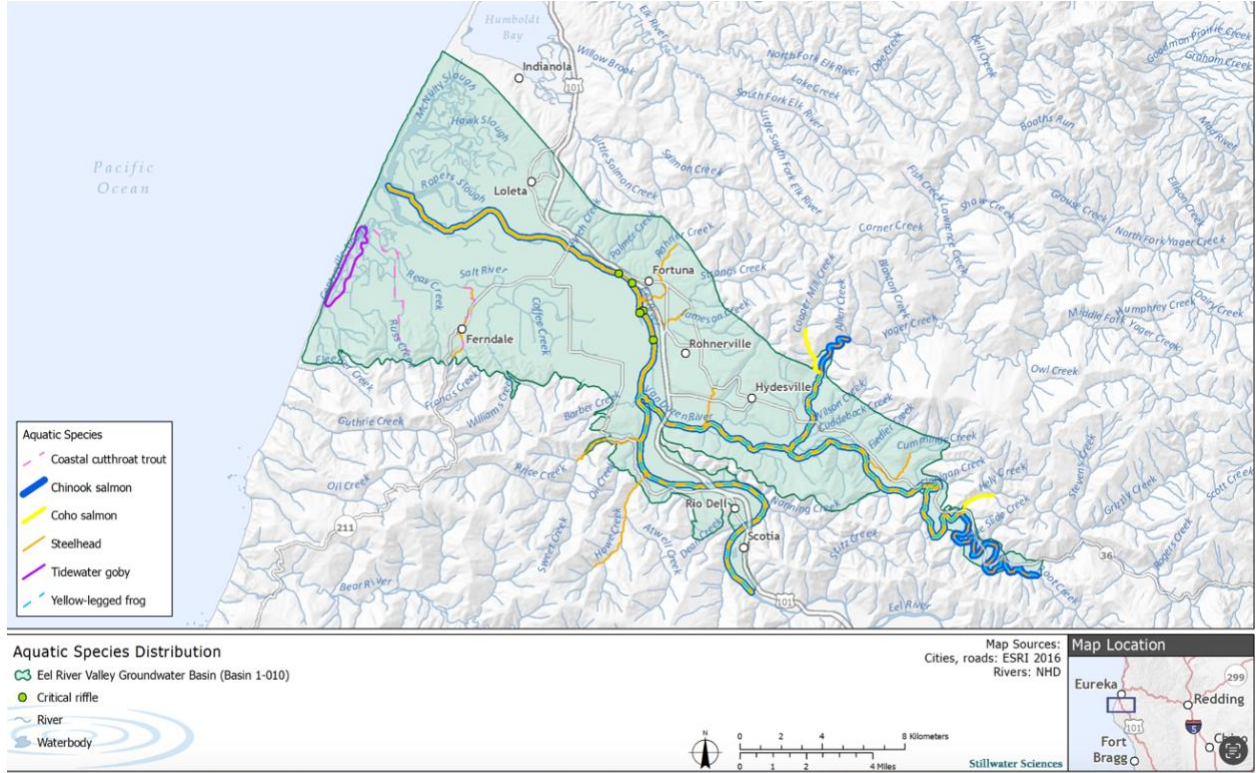


Figure 5. Aquatic Species distribution for the Eel River Groundwater Basin

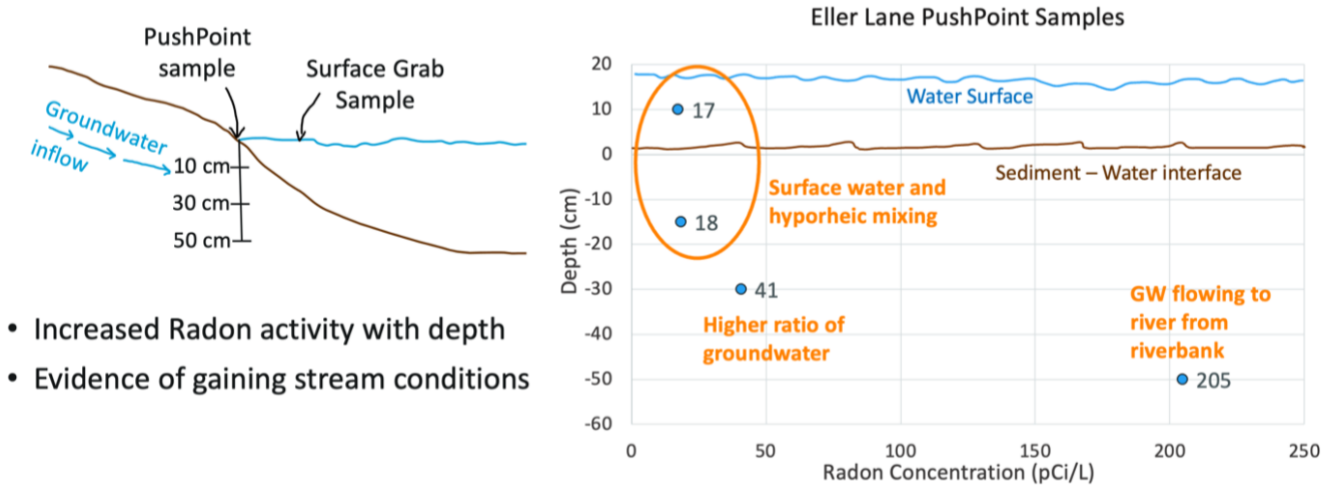


Figure 6. Visual Representation of Radon Activity by Reach in the Scott River Watershed

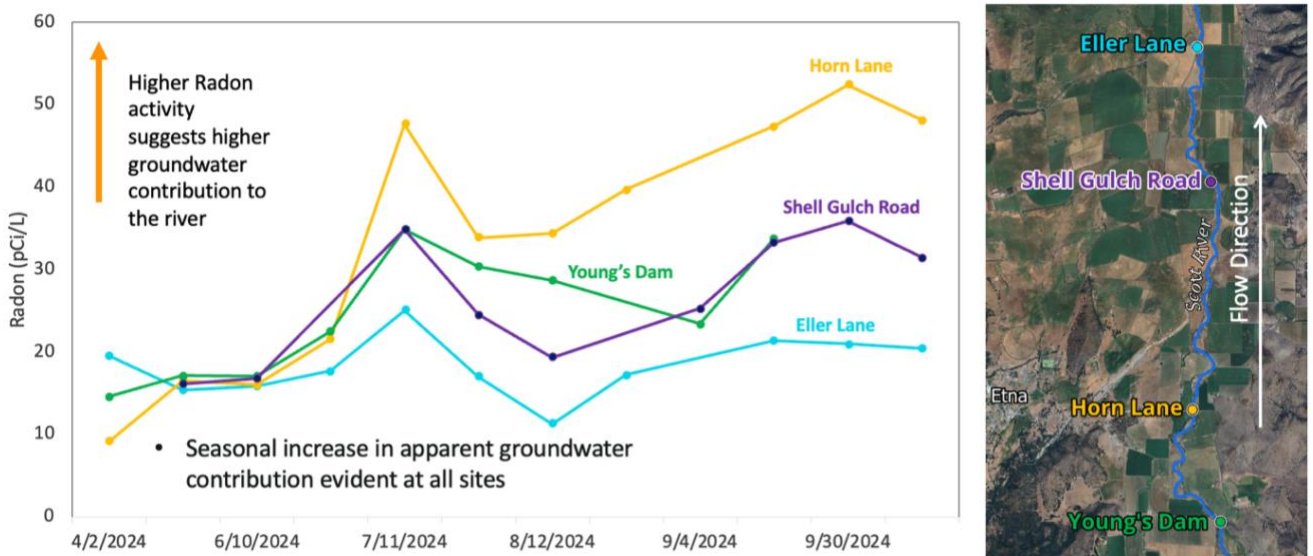


Figure 7. Visual Representation of Evidence Suggesting a Gaining Reach in the Scott River Watershed

## Task 2: Water Resource Management Recommendations

This project will employ a phased approach to refine the UVIHM, evaluate groundwater-surface water interactions under various management and climate scenarios, and develop actionable recommendations for sustainable water resource management. By leveraging recent modeling efforts, targeted field data collection, and stakeholder engagement, the project will ensure that water management decisions affecting ISWs and GDEs are based on the best available scientific analyses.

### Phase 1: Enhancing UVIHM and Running Management and Climate Scenarios

LWA originally developed the UVIHM during the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) process and has an in-depth understanding of its capabilities and limitations. Since early 2024, LWA has been working closely with CLSI under the URR WaterSMARTs project to enhance the model, particularly in assessing the effects of reduced surface water availability due to the Potter Valley Project decommissioning and long-term climate change. These efforts have already resulted in key updates, and this project will build upon that progress by refining UVIHM's ability to characterize stream-aquifer interactions, particularly in tributary reaches that serve as critical fish habitats.

Data collected as part of Task 1 will significantly improve model calibration by refining key hydrological parameters such as streambed conductivity, aquifer conductivity, and tributary inflows, which remain poorly constrained. In addition, field-based geomorphological surveys will improve representation of tributary stream channels, including their width, slope, and physical characteristics, allowing for more precise predictions of groundwater-surface water connectivity and the spatial distribution of GDEs. Geochemical data including Radon-222, stable isotopes of water, and major ion concentrations will further validate model predictions by identifying the timing and locations of surface water-groundwater interactions. The LWA Team will also incorporate insights from ongoing GSA efforts to enhance the accuracy of UVIHM ahead of running scenario simulations. Addressing a key data gap identified in the GSP, the Team will conduct cross-sectional surveys at critical locations such as tributary confluences and stream gages, complementing recent mainstem thalweg mapping carried out under the WaterSMARTs project. Additional refinements will be made using well location and construction data obtained through the GSA's ongoing Well Inventory Study, which has already improved model representation of municipal wells and, to a lesser extent, agricultural wells. By integrating these datasets, LWA will further enhance UVIHM's ability to assess groundwater use impacts on surface water resources.

In addition to model improvements, the LWA Team will conduct targeted scenario simulations to evaluate the response of tributary ISW and GDEs to different climate and management conditions. As part of this effort, the Team has already engaged with DWR to obtain updated climate projections for the Upper Russian River Watershed, ensuring that model simulations reflect the most current hydrological expectations. Having met with key Basin stakeholders – including the State Water Board, City of Ukiah, Willow County Water District, and Russian River Flood Control – LWA is well-positioned to refine its representation of historical and future surface water availability and integrate new information regarding the Potter Valley Project decommissioning as it becomes available.

These modeling efforts will also examine the effects of potential water management strategies, such as the construction of off-stream storage ponds to capture high winter flows, surface water curtailments, and shifts in groundwater pumping across different areas of the Basin. Given the similarities between the CDFW ISW/GDE project objectives and those of the WaterSMARTs project, LWA will be able to efficiently build upon existing scenario work to develop tailored simulations that provide detailed insights into future ISW and GDE conditions under changing hydrological regimes.

## Phase 2: Development of Recommendations and Public Engagement

Following the completion of model refinements and scenario simulations, LWA will synthesize key findings into a comprehensive set of water resource management recommendations designed to minimize impacts on sensitive fish habitats while ensuring sustainable groundwater use. This process will be carried out in close collaboration with CDFW, the GSA, Tribes, and other stakeholders to ensure that the recommendations align with ongoing regional water management efforts.

As part of this effort, LWA will present preliminary findings at a UCCE-facilitated public meeting, where stakeholders will have the opportunity to provide feedback on draft recommendations. Following this engagement, the Team will document public input and refine its recommendations to ensure they are both scientifically robust and adaptable to future water management needs. To support long-term implementation, LWA will also take proactive steps to ensure seamless integration of analytical tools and datasets with ongoing GSA efforts. This will include sharing all modeling refinements, field data, and calibration methodologies with technical staff involved in GSA-led groundwater sustainability initiatives, ensuring that potential challenges related to version control, documentation, and data consistency are addressed. Additionally, the Team will provide technical support for GSA staff to facilitate the continued refinement of UVIHM and GSP, ensuring that water resource management strategies remain adaptive as new information becomes available.

By combining state of the science hydrological modeling, high-resolution field data collection, and an inclusive stakeholder-driven process, this project will establish a strong scientific foundation for informed decision-making in the Ukiah Valley Basin. The outcomes will directly support regional water resource planning efforts and enhance the resilience of ISW, GDEs, and fisheries under evolving climate and water management conditions.

## Task 3: Program Management and Grant Compliance

Effective execution of the Upper Russian River GDE/ISW Study requires strong project management, transparent communication, and full compliance with grant requirements in addition to sound technical work. Task 3 is designed to ensure that the study is conducted efficiently, meets the standards of the CDFW Watershed Grant Program, and remains responsive to stakeholder priorities throughout its duration. A robust project management framework will be implemented to maintain clear scheduling, milestone tracking, and internal coordination across multiple technical tasks. The consultant team will establish regular check-ins, document reviews, and quality assurance/quality control (QA/QC) protocols to ensure that all deliverables adhere to CDFW requirements and project objectives. These quality control measures will minimize risks, ensure technical accuracy, and provide early identification of potential challenges to maintain project momentum. Coordination with the UVBGSA, its consultants, and partners will be a key aspect of this effort, allowing for real-time adjustments and collaborative decision-making as new findings emerge.

As part of this task, the LWA Team will also develop a comprehensive Data Management Plan (DMP) using CDFW's standardized form. This plan will define metadata standards, establish data validation protocols, and outline strategies for long-term data storage and accessibility. The DMP will cover a range of datasets, including groundwater level readings, isotope analyses, streamflow measurements, and biological survey results, ensuring that data integrity is maintained across all project activities. The plan will be submitted to CDFW early in the project and will serve as a foundational reference for data collection, processing, and reporting. A critical consideration for data management is the lack of a centralized Data Management System (DMS) within the GSA to house datasets collected under GSP implementation efforts and annual reporting. While data are currently organized, they are not centrally accessible in a streamlined system. This project presents an opportunity to lay the foundation for a more comprehensive DMS that integrates not only the new datasets collected under this study but also

historical and ongoing monitoring efforts across the Basin. The consultant team will work with the GSA to explore scalable solutions that enhance data accessibility, visualization, and long-term usability. **Figure 8** presents an online interactive mapping interface for a DMS that members of the LWA Team developed for the Fillmore and Piru Groundwater Subbasins as part of an Interconnected Surface Water Analysis.



**Figure 8. Interactive Map Interface from a DMS showing well data compiled as part of an Interconnected Surface Water Analysis for the Santa Clara River and its Tributaries in the Fillmore and Piru Groundwater Basins**

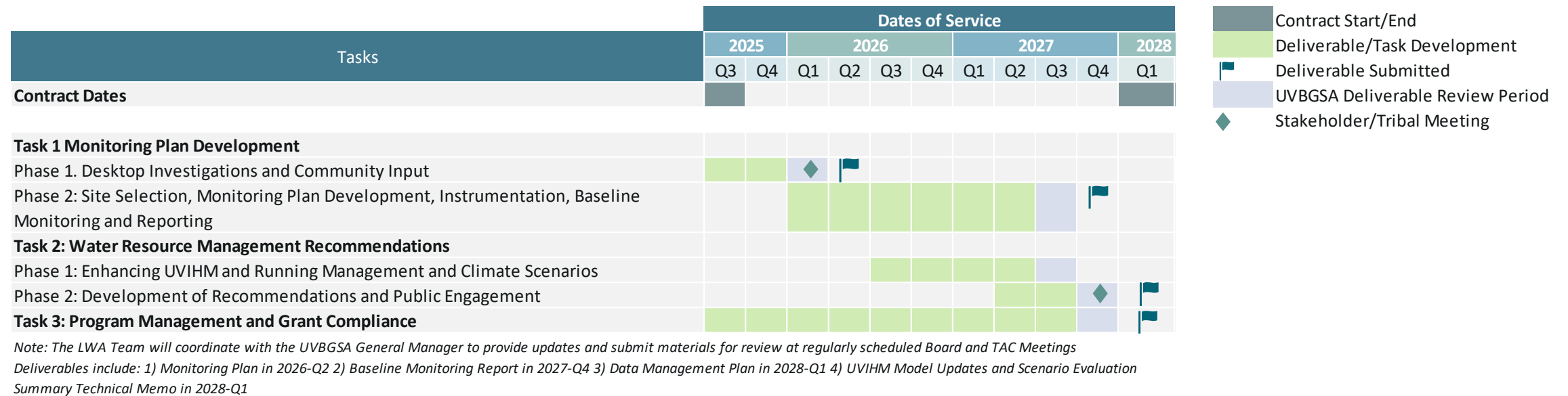
Stakeholder and UVBGSAs engagement are another key element of this task, ensuring that the project remains collaborative, transparent, and aligned with community priorities. In addition to the two UCCE-facilitated stakeholder and community engagement meetings described in Tasks 1 and 2, the LWA Team will provide regular updates to the UVBGSAs Board and TAC. The LWA Team will coordinate with the UVBGSAs General Manager to ensure that progress reports and draft materials for review are delivered at regularly scheduled Board and TAC meetings to reduce the meeting burden on UVBGSAs members, and to streamline coordination with ongoing management efforts. The proposed project manager and other key team members live within a two-hour drive of Ukiah. They are prepared and committed to attending UVBGSAs meetings in person if required. Presentation materials for community and UVBGSAs meetings will be tailored to both technical and non-technical audiences, ensuring that complex findings are communicated in an accessible and engaging manner. In addition to sharing information, the LWA Team will actively incorporate stakeholder and UVBGSAs feedback into project refinements, ensuring that the study remains responsive to local concerns and management needs, strengthening its relevance and applicability. By integrating this feedback with scientific analyses, the study will remain responsive to local concerns and management needs, strengthening its relevance and applicability.

Finally, the LWA Team will support the UVBGSAs with all aspects of grant reporting and invoicing, ensuring that the project remains fully compliant with CDFW requirements. This will include the preparation of quarterly or milestone-based progress reports, tracking of deliverables, and compilation of financial documentation in accordance with CDFW's grant compliance guidelines. The consultant team will maintain clear records of expenditures, task completion, and project challenges, allowing for transparent project administration. Coordination with UVBGSAs staff will ensure that all financial and technical reports align with CDFW expectations, minimizing administrative burdens and ensuring continued grant eligibility. By implementing a structured project management approach, refining data management strategies, engaging stakeholders, and ensuring full grant compliance, this task will provide the foundation for the successful execution of the Upper Russian River GDE/ISW Study.

## 5.0 SCHEDULE

The LWA Team has developed a project schedule that aligns with the UVBGSA's timeline requirements, with work commencing in May 2025 and concluding by March 1, 2028. Our schedule reflects a phased approach that accounts for seasonal considerations essential for field surveys, appropriate sequencing of monitoring activities, and adequate time for stakeholder engagement and review processes.

The proposed schedule ensures timely completion of all deliverables while building in sufficient flexibility to accommodate potential adjustments in response to field conditions, stakeholder input, or other project developments. Our timeline emphasizes efficient coordination among team members and with UVBGSA staff to maintain continuous progress. Critical path elements have been carefully mapped to ensure that the project maintains momentum while allowing for thorough quality assurance at each stage of work.



**Figure 9. Project Schedule**

## 6.0 COST PROPOSAL

The LWA Team’s approach emphasizes cost efficiency while delivering comprehensive, high-quality services that meet all requirements outlined in the RFP. We have carefully structured our budget to align with the project objectives and deliverables, with appropriate allocation of resources for each task. Our cost proposal reflects our extensive experience with similar SGMA-related studies and includes all necessary personnel, equipment, field work, monitoring, modeling, and reporting tasks. We have factored in optimal resource allocation to maximize value while ensuring thorough coverage of all project elements. The LWA Team is committed to delivering exceptional results within the proposed budget framework while maintaining flexibility to address evolving project needs. The quote provided is valid for 120 days following submission on April 7, 2025.

**Table 2. Cost Proposal**

| Task         | Task Name and Activities  | Larry Walker Associates |                    |                    |                                 |                                |                       | Stillwater Sciences |                        |                            |             |                          |                           | DBS&A               |           |                         | UCCE                   |                          | Total Hours | Total Labor Costs | Other Direct Costs | Total Costs      |                  |                    |
|--------------|---|-------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|-------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|-----------|-------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|-------------------|--------------------|------------------|------------------|--------------------|
|              |   | Vice President          | Senior Hydrologist | Senior Scientist I | Project Engineer/Scientist II-B | Project Engineer/Scientist I-B | Project Scientist I-C | Sub Total           | Senior Geomorphologist | Principal/Senior Ecologist | Hydrologist | Senior Aquatic Ecologist | Senior Wildlife Biologist | Fisheries Biologist | Sub Total | Project Professional II | Staff Professional III | Principal Professional I |             |                   |                    |                  | Sub Total        | UCCE Advisor       |
| Hourly Rates |   | \$332                   | \$200              | \$261              | \$215                           | \$171                          | \$146                 | \$208               | \$266                  | \$156                      | \$218       | \$234                    | \$176                     | \$211               | \$175     | \$288                   | \$97                   |                          |             |                   |                    |                  |                  |                    |
| <b>1</b>     | <b>Monitoring Plan Development</b>  |                         |                    |                    |                                 |                                |                       |                     |                        |                            |             |                          |                           |                     |           |                         |                        |                          |             |                   |                    |                  |                  |                    |
| 1.1          | Conduct aerial and field-level biological surveys   |                         |                    |                    |                                 |                                | \$0                   | 55                  | 40                     | 100                        | 110         | 110                      | 110                       | \$106,760           |           |                         |                        | \$0                      |             | \$0               | 525                | \$106,760        | \$12,750         | \$119,510          |
| 1.2          | Combine this new characterization with stakeholder and Tribal input solicited during public meeting                         | 4                       | 20                 | 40                 |                                 |                                | \$15,768              | 50                  | 8                      | 30                         | 20          | 20                       | 20                        | \$29,768            |           |                         |                        | \$0                      |             | \$0               | 212                | \$45,536         |                  | \$45,536           |
| 1.3          | Install continuous sensors to measure temperature and water level in up to 10 wells   | 6                       | 10                 | 20                 | 120                             | 60                             | \$54,032              |                     |                        |                            |             |                          |                           | \$0                 |           |                         |                        | \$0                      |             | \$0               | 276                | \$54,032         | \$184,000        | \$238,032          |
| 1.4.1        | Develop a plan for assessment and long-term monitoring of groundwater influx  | 8                       | 40                 | 80                 |                                 | 40                             | \$44,216              |                     |                        |                            |             |                          |                           | \$0                 |           |                         |                        | \$0                      |             | \$0               | 208                | \$44,216         |                  | \$44,216           |
| 1.4.2        | Conduct baseline geochemical and water quality monitoring   | 10                      | 20                 | 80                 | 40                              | 160                            |                       |                     |                        |                            |             |                          |                           |                     |           |                         |                        |                          |             |                   |                    |                  | \$12,750         | \$12,750           |
| 1.4.3        | UC Davis and USC Isotope Lab, ELAP Lab Analyses   |                         |                    |                    |                                 |                                |                       |                     |                        |                            |             |                          |                           |                     |           |                         |                        |                          |             |                   |                    |                  | \$100,000        | \$100,000          |
| 1.5          | Develop a monitoring plan and baseline monitoring report  | 10                      | 45                 | 80                 | 30                              | 30                             | \$49,160              | 50                  | 6                      | 50                         | 46          | 26                       | 26                        | \$40,484            |           |                         |                        | \$0                      |             | \$0               | 429                | \$89,644         |                  | \$89,644           |
|              | <b>TASK 1 SUBTOTAL</b>  | <b>38</b>               | <b>135</b>         | <b>300</b>         | <b>190</b>                      | <b>290</b>                     | <b>\$114,016</b>      | <b>155</b>          | <b>54</b>              | <b>180</b>                 | <b>176</b>  | <b>156</b>               | <b>156</b>                | <b>\$177,012</b>    | <b>0</b>  | <b>0</b>                | <b>0</b>               | <b>0</b>                 | <b>0</b>    | <b>0</b>          | <b>1650</b>        | <b>\$340,188</b> | <b>\$309,500</b> | <b>\$649,688</b>   |
| <b>2</b>     | <b>Water Resource Management Recommendations</b>  |                         |                    |                    |                                 |                                |                       |                     |                        |                            |             |                          |                           |                     |           |                         |                        |                          |             |                   |                    |                  |                  |                    |
| 2.1          | Update the Ukiah Valley Basin Integrated Hydrological Model   | 10                      | 40                 | 60                 | 250                             | 250                            | \$123,480             |                     |                        |                            |             |                          |                           | \$0                 |           |                         |                        | \$0                      |             | \$0               | 610                | \$123,480        |                  | \$123,480          |
| 2.2          | Use the UVIHM to run pumping and surface water management scenarios   | 10                      | 40                 | 60                 | 200                             | 200                            | \$104,180             |                     |                        |                            |             |                          |                           | \$0                 |           |                         |                        | \$0                      |             | \$0               | 510                | \$104,180        |                  | \$104,180          |
| 2.3          | Develop a technical memorandum summarizing UVIHM model updates scenario evaluations and resource management recommendations | 10                      | 60                 | 60                 | 60                              | 60                             | \$54,140              |                     |                        |                            |             |                          |                           | \$0                 |           |                         |                        | \$0                      |             | \$0               | 250                | \$54,140         |                  | \$54,140           |
| 2.4          | Share the results with stakeholders and Tribes in a public meeting  | 10                      |                    | 30                 |                                 | 20                             | \$17,490              |                     |                        |                            |             |                          |                           | \$0                 |           |                         |                        | \$0                      | 50          | \$4,850           | 130                | \$22,340         | \$5,000          | \$27,340           |
|              | <b>TASK 2 SUBTOTAL</b>  | <b>40</b>               | <b>140</b>         | <b>210</b>         | <b>510</b>                      | <b>530</b>                     | <b>\$299,290</b>      | <b>0</b>            | <b>0</b>               | <b>0</b>                   | <b>0</b>    | <b>0</b>                 | <b>0</b>                  | <b>\$0</b>          | <b>0</b>  | <b>0</b>                | <b>0</b>               | <b>\$0</b>               | <b>50</b>   | <b>\$4,850</b>    | <b>1500</b>        | <b>\$304,140</b> | <b>\$5,000</b>   | <b>\$309,140</b>   |
| <b>3</b>     | <b>Program Management and Grant Compliance</b>  |                         |                    |                    |                                 |                                |                       |                     |                        |                            |             |                          |                           |                     |           |                         |                        |                          |             |                   |                    |                  |                  |                    |
| 3.1          | Perform project management and QA/QC, attend check in meetings, maintain schedule   | 40                      | 40                 | 120                | 40                              | 40                             | \$73,880              | 60                  | 50                     |                            |             |                          |                           | \$25,780            | 8         |                         |                        | \$1,688                  |             | \$0               | 438                | \$101,348        |                  | \$101,348          |
| 3.2          | Develop a Data Management Plan and Data Management System   | 6                       | 10                 | 10                 |                                 |                                | \$6,602               | 40                  | 1                      | 30                         | 8           | 8                        | 8                         | \$18,290            | 36        | 28                      | 36                     | \$22,864                 |             | \$0               | 221                | \$47,756         |                  | \$47,756           |
| 3.3          | Participate in Board/TAC meetings and public workshops to receive feedback and share updates                                | 55                      |                    | 85                 |                                 | 15                             | \$45,200              | 60                  | 0                      | 30                         |             |                          |                           | \$17,160            |           |                         |                        | \$0                      | 50          | \$4,850           | 310                | \$67,210         | \$5,000          | \$72,210           |
| 3.4          | Support grant reporting and invoicing   | 25                      |                    | 55                 |                                 |                                | \$22,655              | 20                  | 4                      | 40                         |             |                          |                           | \$11,464            | 4         |                         |                        | \$844                    |             | \$0               | 148                | \$34,963         |                  | \$34,963           |
|              | <b>TASK 3 SUBTOTAL</b>  | <b>126</b>              | <b>50</b>          | <b>270</b>         | <b>40</b>                       | <b>55</b>                      | <b>\$148,337</b>      | <b>180</b>          | <b>55</b>              | <b>100</b>                 | <b>8</b>    | <b>8</b>                 | <b>8</b>                  | <b>\$72,694</b>     | <b>48</b> | <b>28</b>               | <b>36</b>              | <b>\$25,396</b>          | <b>50</b>   | <b>\$4,850</b>    | <b>1117</b>        | <b>\$251,277</b> | <b>\$5,000</b>   | <b>\$256,277</b>   |
|              | <b>TOTALS</b>   | <b>204</b>              | <b>325</b>         | <b>780</b>         | <b>740</b>                      | <b>875</b>                     | <b>\$561,643</b>      | <b>335</b>          | <b>109</b>             | <b>280</b>                 | <b>184</b>  | <b>164</b>               | <b>164</b>                | <b>\$249,706</b>    | <b>48</b> | <b>28</b>               | <b>36</b>              | <b>\$25,396</b>          | <b>100</b>  | <b>\$9,700</b>    | <b>4267</b>        | <b>\$895,605</b> | <b>\$319,500</b> | <b>\$1,215,105</b> |

## 6.1 LWA TEAM RATES

The following table presents the fixed rates for all staff on the LWA Team, as presented in **Table 2** above. The LWA Team acknowledges that the rates shall remain fixed for the duration of the contract.

**Table 3. LWA Team Rate Schedule**

| Firm                       | Classification                   | Rate  |
|----------------------------|----------------------------------|-------|
| <b>LWA</b>                 | Vice President                   | \$332 |
|                            | Senior Hydrologist               | \$200 |
|                            | Senior Scientist I               | \$261 |
|                            | Project Engineer/ Scientist II-B | \$215 |
|                            | Project Engineer/ Scientist I-B  | \$171 |
|                            | Project Scientist I-C            | \$146 |
| <b>Stillwater Sciences</b> | Senior Geomorphologist           | \$208 |
|                            | Principal/ Senior Ecologist      | \$266 |
|                            | Hydrologist                      | \$156 |
|                            | Senior Aquatic Ecologist         | \$218 |
|                            | Senior Wildlife Biologist        | \$234 |
|                            | Fisheries Biologist              | \$176 |
| <b>DBS&amp;A</b>           | Project Professional II          | \$211 |
|                            | Staff Professional III           | \$175 |
|                            | Principal Professional I         | \$288 |
| <b>UCCE</b>                | UCCE Advisor                     | \$97  |

## 7.0 CONFLICTS

The LWA Team confirms that no conflict of interest would prevent our participation in this solicitation or contract.

## 8.0 REFERENCES

LWA's extensive portfolio demonstrates our commitment to excellence across diverse watersheds, regulatory frameworks, and stakeholder environments. The following references highlight our proven expertise in monitoring plan development and water resource management recommendations.

| Reference 1. Creating Long-Term Water Supply Resiliency for Ukiah Valley and Upper Russian River<br><i>LWA</i> |   |
|--|---|
| <b>Client Name</b>   | California Land Stewardship Institute   |
| <b>Years of Service</b>  | 2024-Present  |
| <b>References</b>  | Laurel Marcus, Science Director<br>550 Gateway Dr #104, Napa, CA 94558<br>(707) 253-1226; <a href="mailto:laurelm@fishfriendlyfarming.org">laurelm@fishfriendlyfarming.org</a><br>Chelsea Jimenez Ph.D., Director of Specialty Projects and Research,<br>(707) 253-1226; <a href="mailto:chelseaj@fishfriendlyfarming.org">chelseaj@fishfriendlyfarming.org</a> |
| <b>Description of Services</b>   | See Project 1 above.  |

| Reference 2. Scott Valley Irrigation District (SVID) Recharge Project<br><i>LWA</i> |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Client Name</b>  | Scott Valley Irrigation District  |
| <b>Years of Service</b>   | 2021-Present  |
| <b>Reference</b>  | Matt Parker, Program Manager<br>1312 Fairlane Road, Yreka, CA 96097<br>(530) 842-8005; <a href="mailto:mparker@co.siskiyou.ca.us">mparker@co.siskiyou.ca.us</a> |
| <b>Description of Services</b>  | See Project 2 above.  |

| Reference 3. Napa Valley Subbasin ISW and GDE Workplan and Implementation<br><i>Stillwater Sciences</i> |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Client Name</b>  | Napa County Groundwater Sustainability Agency   |
| <b>Years of Service</b>   | 2024-Present  |
| <b>Reference</b>  | Jamison Crosby, Natural Resources Conservation Manager<br>1195 Third Street, Napa, CA 94559<br>(707) 253-4823; <a href="mailto:Jamison.Crosby@countyofnapa.org">Jamison.Crosby@countyofnapa.org</a> |
| <b>Description of Services</b>  | See Project 3 above.  |

## 9.0 ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

### 9.1 Insurance

LWA verifies that the minimum coverage of \$1,000,000 in commercial general liability, workers' compensation, and automobiles is met and will be maintained for the duration of the contract.

### 9.2 Use of UVBGSA Logo

The LWA Team recognizes that the unauthorized use of the UVBGSA's official logo is strictly prohibited.