

Extracted excerpts from SGMA regulations.

§ 351. Definitions

(m) “Groundwater dependent ecosystem” refers to ecological communities or species that depend on groundwater emerging from aquifers or on groundwater occurring near the ground surface.

§ 354.16. Groundwater Conditions

Identification of groundwater dependent ecosystems within the basin, utilizing data available from the Department, as specified in Section 353.2, or the best available information.

Extracted from Prop 68 Grant Application.

The objective of this task therefore is to refine the potential Natural Communities Commonly Associated with Groundwater (NCCAG) GDE maps by conducting additional aerial imagery, groundwater and vegetation data analyses and by enlisting qualified biologists to conduct a field vegetation survey. To optimize the field verification effort, the NCCAG-defined GDE areas will be classified into low, moderate and high probability GDEs and prioritizing the low to moderate probability areas for field validation. The GDE Pulse tool will also be used to further identify temporal trends for the field verified GDEs. The results of this task will improve the HCM, provide mapped areas of ecological interest and beneficial users of groundwater, inform locations for future groundwater monitoring needs, and increase the reliability of the data and information used to develop the Sustainable Management Criteria (SMCs). The Sacramento County Groundwater Authority GSA representing the adjacent SA Basin has shared their approach to evaluate GDEs with the Working Group to foster collaboration and data sharing between the two basins, particularly along the Cosumnes River floodplain. This collaboration is facilitated by the fact three Working Group member GSAs manage land areas located in both basins and on either side of the Cosumnes River.

Extracted from EKI Contract with Sacramento County

Task 6 “Groundwater Dependent Ecosystem Verification”

Under oversight by EKI and the Working Group, a biologist/ecologist will conduct:

- (1) Groundwater Dependent Ecosystem (GDE) desktop verification with aerial imagery and field vegetation survey;
- (2) Utilize the GDE Pulse tool to characterize seasonal and interannual groundwater conditions supplemented by well-water levels in the DMS, where available; and,
- (3) Prepare a TM documenting the findings of the verification activities.

Task 6 requires the Basin GSAs to lead the effort to arrange access from landowners as needed to complete field vegetation surveys.