

Stanislaus County Water Advisory Committee  
100 Day Action Plan

Element 1: Thresholds

**Goal:** Identify, develop and integrate county-wide groundwater basin management objectives (BMO's).

**Objective:** Thresholds are an important component of groundwater management because they establish quantifiable triggers that, when approached or exceeded, signal a threat or problem. Approaching or exceeding a threshold may trigger management actions needed to address identified threats or problems.

**Scope:** The geographic area of this element is county-wide though *special emphasis will be placed on the Northeast County Foothills Area.*

**Strategy:** Identify sustainable water level fluctuations in the aquifer system and define desirable minimum and maximum management levels. Evaluate long-term historical trends and forecasted use patterns (location; rate; construction) using USGS modeling tool.

Stanislaus County Water Advisory Committee  
100 Day Action Plan

Element 2: Monitoring

**Goal:** Collect geohydrologic data from all available public and private sources in order to assess and monitor the response of the aquifer system(s) to known and quantifiable stresses.

**Objective:** Without sufficient monitoring, it is not possible to determine if groundwater problems exist or to forecast the potential for future problems that may require active management actions.

**Scope:** The geographic area of this element is county-wide though *special emphasis will be placed on the Northeast County Foothills Area.*

**Strategy:** Collect and compile water level data that is integrated within the state-wide CASGEM effort (in cooperation with local reporting entities such as the Turlock Groundwater Basin Association and the Stanislaus & Tuolumne Rivers Groundwater Basin Association). Collect and compile aggregated groundwater pumpage reports from all users within the county. Such data will allow for a direct assessment of aquifer water level response vs. pumping conditions.



Stanislaus County Water Advisory Committee  
100 Day Action Plan

Element 3: Governance

**Goal:** Explore various governance structures that may be applicable to managing groundwater resources in identified areas of concern within Stanislaus County.

**Objective:** Governance of groundwater use is necessary to ensure that thresholds for water quality and quantity are not exceeded. In some situations, actions are needed to avert potential problems or to rectify existing problems, *such as lack of groundwater recharge*. Managing groundwater generally requires maintaining a balance between pumping, storage depletion, and recharge at the basin scale and over the long-term (spacial and temporal). Such a balance can effectively be achieved through conjunctive use, demand management (e.g., water conservation, reduced pumping), or a combination of both.

**Scope:** The geographic area of this element is county-wide though *special emphasis will be placed on the Northeast County Foothills Area*.

**Strategy:** Explore options for existing water suppliers to deliver surface water to the areas of concern in wet years when such water can be declared surplus. Identify location and mechanisms for artificial recharge programs. Develop wellfield optimization programs that include well rotation and coordinated scheduled operations.

Stanislaus County Water Advisory Committee  
100 Day Action Plan

Element 4: Funding

**Goal:** Develop funding mechanisms to support local groundwater management efforts such as the administration and coordination of data collection, and assessment and reporting of aquifer conditions.

**Objective:** Successful groundwater management requires access to sufficient funding to pay for the development and implementation of groundwater management plans, water level monitoring networks, groundwater recharge facilities, ongoing operation and maintenance of infrastructure, as well as the oversight or enforcement, by local and regional management agencies.

**Scope:** The geographic area of this element is county-wide though *special emphasis will be placed on the Northeast County Foothills Area.*

**Strategy:** Explore local fee structures and/or special district assessments recognizing Proposition 218 constraints. In addition to local revenue sources, significant funding for conjunctive use projects, groundwater recharge facilities, and groundwater basin management activities can be made available through various existing State water bond measures and from State and Federal grant funding.

Stanislaus County Water Advisory Committee  
100 Day Action Plan

Element 5: Enforcement

**Goal:** To ensure that adequate local governmental authority exists **within its governance** to enforce compliance with any identified groundwater management program elements.

**Objective:** Oversight and enforcement encourages groundwater pumpers to operate in a manner consistent with relevant regulations, plans, policies, and permits. To address violations of management plan provisions or regulatory requirements, federal, State, and local agencies provide oversight of pollution cleanup, and take enforcement actions of varying types and levels of stringency. Local and regional groundwater management entities may also need to take additional oversight actions when monitoring data demonstrate that thresholds are, or will likely be exceeded, within their jurisdictions.

**Scope:** The geographic area of this element is county-wide though *special emphasis will be placed on the Northeast County Foothills Area.*

**Strategy:** Review and revise, as necessary, the existing Stanislaus County Groundwater Mining and Export Prevention Ordinance to address enforcement needs and concerns. Terms such as “Mining” and “Adverse Impacts”, among others, need to be defined in order to establish permit/ordinance review criterion.