SANTA ANA WATERSHED PROJECT AUTHORITY

SAWPA

Potential Data Gaps Framework Refresher and Next Steps for GMZs

Basin Monitoring Program Task Force
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Purpose of Presentation

- Brief Task Force on past work done related to potential groundwater data gaps

- Remind Task Force of upcoming deadlines for various GMZs related to 2023 Data Gap Framework

Reason for Focus on Data Gaps

- Section 6.2.4 of the 2019 Recycled Water Policy is related to Salt and Nutrient Management Plan (SNMP) monitoring networks.

- The policy states “Each salt and nutrient management plan shall include the following components….

Sub-Section 6.2.4.1: “A basin- or subbasin-wide monitoring plan that includes an appropriate network of monitoring locations to provide a reasonable, cost-effective means of determining whether the concentrations of salts, nutrients, and other constituents of concern as identified in the salt and nutrient management plans are consistent with applicable water quality objectives. The number, type, and density of monitoring locations to be sampled and other aspects of the monitoring program shall be dependent upon basin specific conditions and input from the regional water board.” and

Sub-Section 6.2.4.1.3“The monitoring plan shall identify those stakeholders responsible for conducting, compiling, and reporting the monitoring data.”

Framework Development Timeline

- Task Force approved $59K March 2023 contract with West Yost (WY)
- SAWPA/WY held meetings with the Regional Board, Task Force members, and other local agencies to discuss monitoring networks in each GMZ in May 2023
- SAWPA/WY met with the Regional Board in July 2023 to review discussions and key considerations for identifying agencies designated for resolving potential data gaps.
- 2023 Data Gap Framework comment period ended on October 13, 2023
- Framework submitted to Regional Board on October 31, 2023

Overview of Data Gap Framework

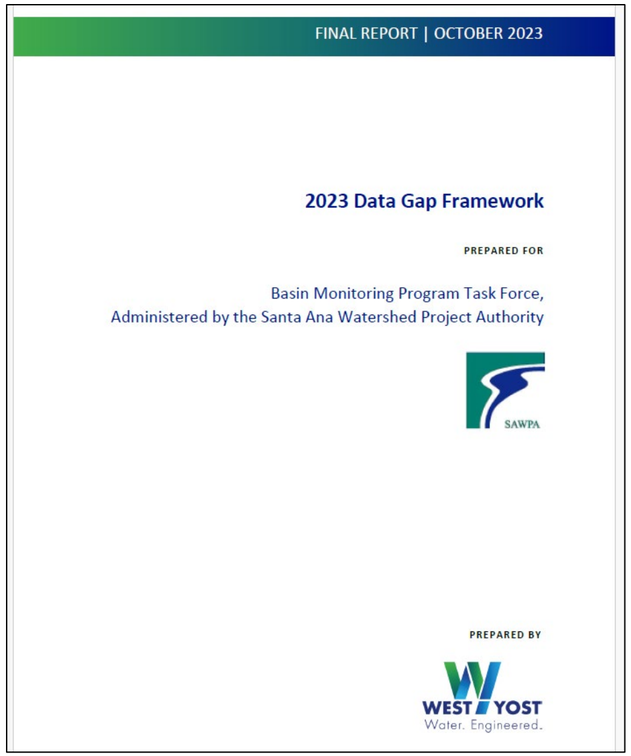
The Data Gap Framework does the following –

1. Identifies the potential data gaps in each of the 35 GMZs in the SAR Watershed,

2. Defines criteria to prioritize the timeframe for resolving potential data gaps,

3. Recommends the agencies to resolve potential gaps in each GMZ, and

4. Defines a multi-step approach and schedule to address any potential data gaps.



Why Data Gaps are “Potential” gaps

Per the submitted Framework, data gaps are considered “potential” at this stage for two reasons:

- *What is identified as a data gap based on these criteria, may not actually represent a real gap based on the most updated understanding of the aquifer system. Further, it is not in the purview of the Task Force to track every updated hydrogeologic characterizations that are made in all GMZs.*

- *Though considerable efforts are made to keep the status of the monitoring network and existing wells up to date, it is not always possible to reach all owners or obtain updates. There is the potential for additional outreach to well owners to determine if there are new or existing wells that can be monitored for water quality to resolve potential data gaps.*

(Page 13 of Framework)

Prioritization to Resolve Potential Data Gaps

Based on the requirements of the 2019 Recycled Water Policy and the outcomes of the discussions with the Task Force stakeholders and Regional Board staff, the prioritization criteria for filling potential data gaps includes two types of GMZs (high or low priority) where:

High priority GMZ if it has:

- Recycled water discharges to unlined streams, ponds, or to the Santa Ana River overlying the GMZ
- Recycled water use for outdoor irrigation or recharge to groundwater recharge basins
- Surface water-groundwater connectivity with Santa Ana River flow that is potentially influenced with recycled water discharge

Low priority* GMZ if it has:

- No current or planned recycled water activities from present to approximately 2028

*Per the Framework “There are no required actions at this time for the GMZs with low-priority or no potential data gaps.” (page 18)

Table 4-1 in Framework – "Number of Potential Data Gaps in Each GMZ and the Dischargers/Agencies Designated to Resolve Them"

Groundwater Management Zones	GMZ Features[b]					Number of Potential Data Gaps Identified	Priority in Filling Potential Data Gaps [d]	Dischargers/Agencies Designated to Resolve Potential Data Gaps [c]																				
	Recycled water is discharged to unlined streams or ponds or the SAR in GMZ	Recycled water is used for direct non-potable use or recharge in the GMZ	Area with surface water-groundwater connectivity with SAR or tributary with RW discharge	Imported water and/or stormwater recharge in GMZ	GMZ used for potable municipal supply			Beaumont Cherry Valley WD	Chino Basin Watermaster	City of Banning	City of Beaumont	City of Colton	City of Corona	City of Redlands	City of Rialto	City of Riverside	City of San Bernardino	Cucamonga Valley WD	East Valley WD	Eastern MWD	Elsinore Valley MWD	Inland Empire Utilities Agency	Jurupa CSD	Temescal Valley Water District	Orange County WD	San Bernardino Valley MWD	San Gorgonio Pass WA	Western Municipal WD	Yucaipa Valley WD
San Jacinto Basins																												
Canyon				Y	Y	1[e]	Low/NA													X								
San Jacinto Upper Pressure [f]	Y	Y		Y	Y	0	High													X								
San Jacinto Lower Pressure	Y	Y				1	High													X								
Hemet South	Y	Y			Y	2	High													X								
Lakeview/Hemet North	Y	Y			Y	0	High													X								
Perris North	Y	Y			Y	0	High													X								
Perris South	Y	Y			Y	0	High													X								
Menifee	Y	Y			Y	1	High													X								

Table covers all 35 GMZ (just the first several GMZs are shown here)

More Information on Agencies in Table 4-1

From the Framework (page 14):

Since the prioritization of resolving potential data gaps is based on recycled water activities, the recycled water dischargers or agencies with GMZ-specific SNMPs are the recommended Designated Agencies to resolve potential data gaps in each GMZ.

However, Designated Agencies may coordinate and collaborate with other Designated Agencies or local agencies that are willing to help resolve potential data gaps.

Importance of Footnotes in Table 4-1

Groundwater Management Zones	GMZ Features[b]					Number of Potential Data Gaps Identified	Priority in Filling Potential Data Gaps[d]	Dischargers/Agencies Designated to Resolve Potential Data Gaps[c]																					
	Recycled water is discharged to unlined streams or ponds or the SAR in GMZ	Recycled water is used for direct non-potable use or recharge in the GMZ	Area with surface water-groundwater connectivity with SAR or tributary with RW discharge	Imported water and/or stormwater recharge in GMZ	GMZ used for potable municipal supply			Beaumont Cherry Valley WD	Chino Basin Watermaster	City of Banning	City of Beaumont	City of Colton	City of Corona	City of Redlands	City of Rialto	City of Riverside	City of San Bernardino	Cucamonga Valley WD	East Valley WD	Eastern MWD	Elsinore Valley MWD	Inland Empire Utilities Agency	Jurupa CSD	Temescal Valley Water District	Orange County WD	San Bernardino Valley MWD	San Gorgonio Pass WA	Western Municipal WD	Yucaipa Valley WD
Beaumont/Yucaipa Plain																													
Beaumont [f]	Y		Y	Y	Y	1	High	X		X	X															X		X
San Timoteo [f]	Y	Y	Y		Y	0	High				X																	X
Yucaipa [f]		Y		Y	Y	0	High																					X
San Bernardino Basin																													
Lytle [g]					Y	1	Low																						
Bunker Hill-A [g]				Y	Y	1	Low																						
Bunker Hill-B	Y	P	Y	Y	Y	0	High							X			P		P							P			
Rialto					Y	0	Low																						
Colton [h]			Y		Y	1	High																						

Example of Footnotes:

(g) - The County of San Bernardino Special Districts operates two wastewater treatment plants in the Lytle GMZ, that are permitted to discharge to ponds in the Lytle GMZ and for recycled water use in the Bunker Hill-A GMZ. Water Board staff have indicated that additional time is needed to better understand the discharges to lined ponds in the Lytle GMZ, and confirm if recycled water use will occur in the future. For the time being, both GMZs will remain low priority to address potential data gaps.

(h) - Based on the criteria developed to prioritize GMZs and designate agencies to resolve potential data gaps, there is no logical discharger/agency to assign to Colton GMZ at this time. As discussed with Water Board staff, the designation will be deferred at this time and will be revisited after the Colton GMZ storage model is updated and the GMZ reassessed for data gaps in the new model.

Data Gap-Related Schedule

Ambient Water Quality (AWQ) Recomputation	Recomputation Period	Deadline to Finish
2021 AWQ	2002-2021	Oct 2023
Assess and Plan for Potential Data Gaps		**Dec 2025***
Data collection process and storage updates		Oct 2027
2026 AWQ**	2007-2026	Oct 2028
2031 AWQ**	2012-2031	Oct 2033

- October 2023 – Final TM on Potential Data Gaps Analysis and Framework to Address Data
- By December 31, 2025 – Agencies in Table 4a follow steps in **Framework Section 3.4**

*From Framework (page 18): “The two-year clock starts with the approval of this 2023 Data Gap Framework by the Santa Ana Water Board Executive Officer or by December 31, 2023, whichever comes first.”
**From Framework (page 18-19): “With each ambient water quality recomputation, the Task Force will evaluate existing well monitoring locations to determine if there are new potential data gaps or changes in priorities, and in conjunction with the ambient water quality recomputation, propose a process for resolving them so that data can become available in advance of the next ambient water quality re-computation.”

Suggested Steps for Agencies in Table 4-1

- Review Table 4-1. If you have a “high priority” ***potential*** data gap, complete the other items listed on this slide.
- Review Framework, note that Appendix C has maps of the GMZs with the potential data gaps circled.
- See **Section 3.4 of Framework** of what is needed by December 31, 2025. It references a three-step process. Determine if you can meet these three steps by December 31, 2025.
- Reach out to the various agencies in your GMZ in Table 4-1 (if there are others besides your agency).
- Coordinate with them to ensure you can meet the December 31, 2025 deadline.
- Please let SAWPA know if you have any questions or need assistance in researching grant applications, or need general grant application technical assistance.

Thank You

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