RESOLUTION No. 16-585

OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF NEVADA

RESOLUTION APPROVING THE MARTIS VALLEY GROUNDWATER BASIN ALTERNATIVE PLAN SUBMITTAL IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT ACT (SGMA) BY COUNTY OF NEVADA ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT IN CONCURRANCE WITH THE PARTIES OF THE MARTIS VALLEY GROUNDWATER BASIN GROUP (MVGBG)

WHEREAS, on September 16, 2014, Governor Jerry Brown signed into law Senate Bills 1168 and 1319 and Assembly Bill 1739, known collectively as the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA); and

WHEREAS, SGMA requires agencies to achieve "sustainable groundwater management" for all water basins or subbasins that are designated high or medium priority basins in Bulletin 118; and

WHEREAS, the Martis Valley Groundwater Basin (MVGB) is located in both Nevada County and Placer County and has been designated as medium priority basin; and

WHEREAS, SGMA requires either the formation of a Groundwater Sustainability Agency ("GSA") for all water basins or subbasins that are a Bulletin 118 designated High or Medium Priority Basin no later than June 30, 2017, or an Alternative Plan by January 1, 2017; and

WHEREAS, all MVGBG Parties fall within the definition of "local agency" for purposes of formation of an Alternative Plan; and

WHEREAS, under SGMA, an Alternative Plan may be submitted as an alternative to a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) provided sufficient data is included to show stability in the Basin yield over a 10-year period; and

WHEREAS, the MVGBG Parties wish to submit the Alternative Plan to the Department of Water Resources by January 1, 2017.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Nevada, State of California, that the Martis Valley Groundwater Basin SGMA Alternative Submittal be and is hereby approved in substantially the form attached hereto for submittal to the State Department of Water Resources.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Nevada at a regular meeting of said Board, held on the 13th day of December, 2016, by the following vote of said Board:

Ayes: Supervisors Nathan H. Beason, Edward Scofield, Dan Miller, Hank Weston and Richard Anderson.

Noes: None.

Absent: None.

Abstain: None.

ATTEST:

JULIE PATTERSON HUNTER
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

By: _____

Dan Miller, Chair

12/13/2016 cc: EH*
AC*(hold)

2/15/2017 cc: EH*
AC* (Release)

MARTIS VALLEY GROUNDWATER BASIN SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT ACT ALTERNATIVE SUBMITTAL

FINAL November 21, 2016

TRUCKEE DONNER PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT

TOWN OF TRUCKEE
Established 1863 Incorporated 1993

Northstar Community Services District N·C·S·D

COUNTY OF Placer

PCWA
water · energy · stewardship

COUNTY OF NEVADA CALIFORNIA

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:
MARTIS VALLEY GROUNDWATER BASIN SGMA ALTERNATIVE SUBMITTAL

This Martis Valley Groundwater Basin Alternative Submittal (Alternative Submittal) for compliance with the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) is being submitted collaboratively by the Truckee Donner Public Utility District, Northstar Community Services District, Placer County Water Agency, Placer County, Nevada County, and Town of Truckee. These six local public agencies (Local SGMA Agencies) serve water, have the authority to serve water, or have land-use authority in the Martis Valley Groundwater Basin (MVGB) and their overlapping jurisdictions cover 100% of the basin. There are no other water suppliers or land-use agencies in the MVGB eligible to comply with SGMA. The Truckee Donner Public Utility District Staff is serving as the Administering Manager for this Alternative Submittal.

During the course of preparing this Alternative Submittal, various entities were involved in developing, approving, and adopting the Alternative Submittal. The six Local SGMA Agencies have had dozens of staff and legal meetings to explore and understand the implications of SGMA. There have also been numerous meetings with California Department of Water Resources (DWR) staff and other interested parties involved with SGMA. The governing boards/councils of the agencies have held agendized public meetings more than a dozen times and received public input and taken action. A stakeholder outreach process was conducted including a public meeting widely promoted in the community. The six Local SGMA Agencies have collaboratively developed this Alternative Submittal and a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) to execute this submittal, to provide on-going compliance, and to formalize a process for the public to participate in SGMA compliance.

On September 16, 2014, the Governor Brown signed into law a three-bill legislative package collectively known as the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act of 2014 (SGMA). SGMA defines sustainable groundwater management as the management and use of groundwater in a manner that can be maintained during the planning implementation horizon without causing undesirable results. SGMA applies to all medium and high-priority basins as designated by DWR. The MVGB has been designed a medium-priority basin.

Water Code section 10733.2 directs DWR to develop Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) regulations including Alternative submittals pursuant to Water Code section 10733.6. SGMA allows for a local agency to submit an Alternative submittal based on evidence that a basin has operated within its sustainable yield over a period of at least 10 years. A report prepared by GEI Consultants, registered hydrogeologists licensed by California and submitted under the hydrogeologist's seal, demonstrates that the Martis Valley Groundwater Basin has operated within its sustainable yield for at least 25 years (Spring, 1991 to Spring, 2016).

This Alternative Submittal for the MVGB substantially complies with the intent of SGMA to achieve sustainable groundwater management without causing undesirable results. This evaluation is based on:

- A solid understanding of the geology and hydrology of the MVGB with reasonable interpretations based on the best available information and scientific data;
- The potential for undesirable results is understood, a basin sustainability goal with measureable objectives and thresholds has been developed, and the instances that might give rise to undesirable results are avoidable;
- The MVGB is CASGEM compliant and has a robust monitoring network;

- Groundwater pumping in the MVGB represents less than 2% of the system's total water budget and is closer to 1% when returns to the water system from the regional sewage treatment plan are considered;
- The MVGB had a net increase in storage over the period of 1990 to 2015 during which the region saw significant growth and several multi-year droughts;
- The Local SGMA Agencies did not witness lowering of water levels during the most recent historic California drought; and
- There is no current evidence of undesirable results that are significant or unreasonable due to groundwater use in the MVGB.

To ensure that the MVGB continues to be managed within sustainable yield, the six Local SGMA Agencies collaboratively developed a MVGB sustainability goal along with management objectives and quantifiable minimum thresholds for potential undesirable results that are significant and unreasonable. This effort built upon the work completed in the 2013 Martis Valley Groundwater Management Plan (TDPUD, NCSD, PCWA, 2013), incorporated the Martis Valley GMP Basin Management Objectives, and included recommendations from GEI Consultants, a firm with registered hydrogeologists licensed by the State of California. The SGMA Management Committee will ensure that adaptive management protocols are incorporated into the committee process to address new information as appropriate. The adaptive management protocols will also consider public input as part of the process. All of the above in this Executive Summary demonstrate that the elements of this Alternative Submittal are functionally equivalent to the relevant guidelines of a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) and substantially compliant with SGMA (23 C.C.R. § 358.2)

The MVGB has existing robust programs and policies that direct basin management to ensure continued operation within sustainable yield as defined by SGMA. This includes the water use limits under the Settlement Act and TROA, the 2013 Martis Valley GMP, the 2015 Truckee Donner Public Utility District Urban Water Management Plan (considers major groundwater users in the MVGB, TDPUD UWMP, 2015), and the overall entitlement and permitting process to vet new projects. To support this existing local governance, the Local SGMA Agencies are proposing to create a SGMA Management Committee which will help communicate with local stakeholders, support SGMA compliance activities, and provide a forum for the public to participate in the Alternative Submittal, provide inputs or address concerns.

The GEI Hydrogeologic Support of Alternative Submittal Report (GEI, 2016b), prepared by a licensed hydrogeologist, demonstrates that the MVGB has operated within sustainable yield for at least 25-years. GEI Consultants also participated in the development of this Alternative Submittal. This robust scientific understanding, along with the significant governance and management that exists today in the MVGB and as documented in this Executive Summary and accompanying report, justifies that DWR find that this Alternative Submittal is substantially compliant with SGMA.

Figure 1: Martis Valley Groundwater Basin

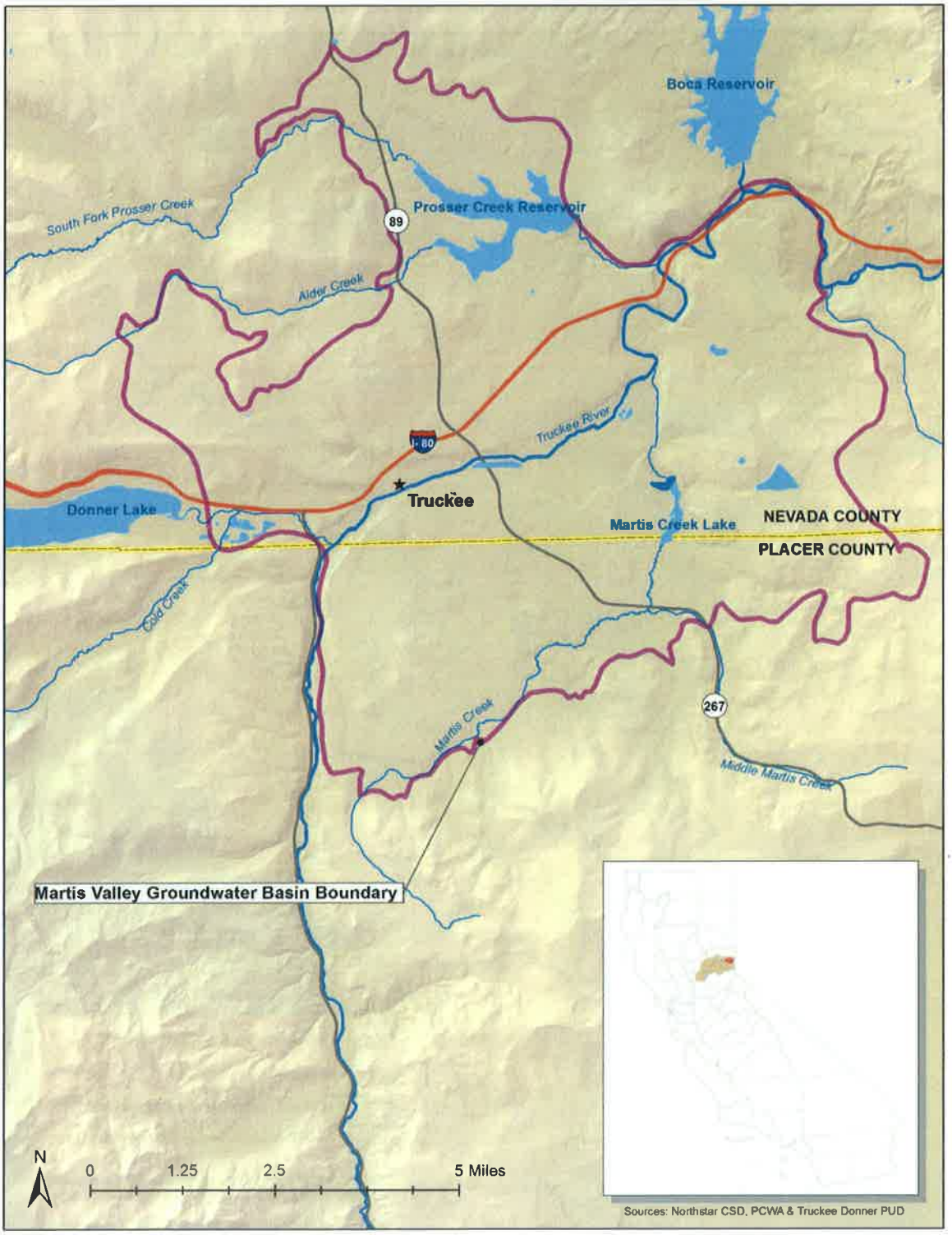
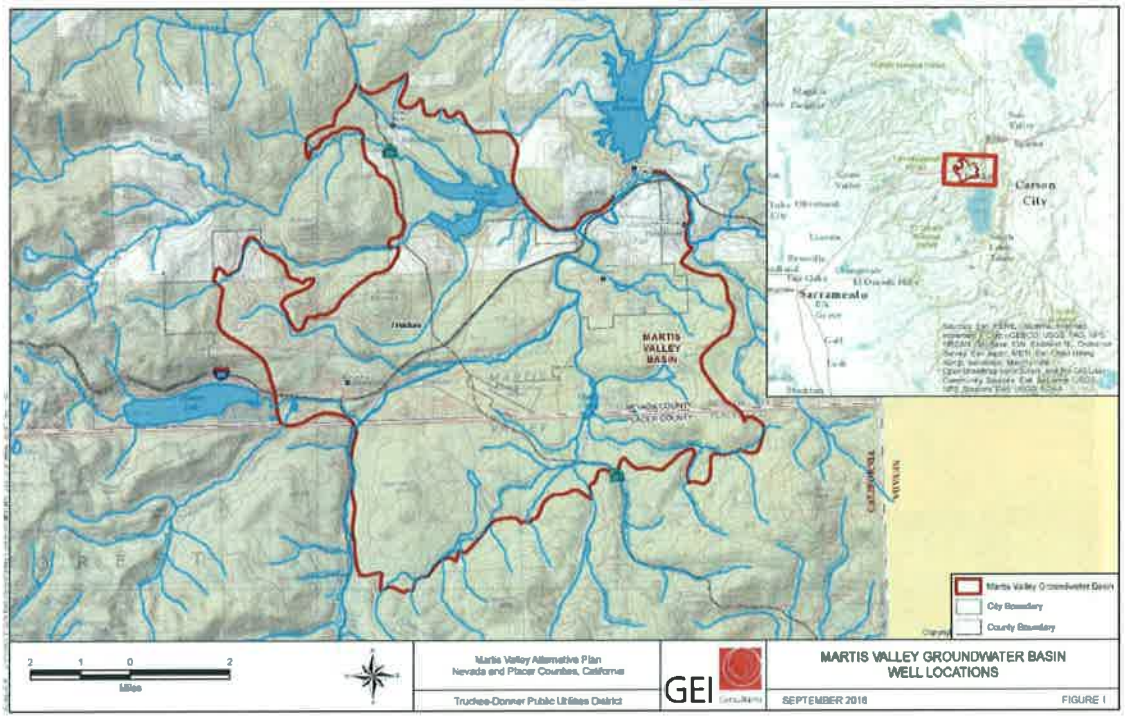


Figure 3: Martis Valley Groundwater Basin Well Locations



Lower infiltration rate soils typically reflect higher elevation areas that are distal to streams or creeks. Due to the geology of the basin, less permeable volcanics are often either exposed or present at shallow depths beneath the soil profile. Therefore, recharge rates through soils are limited in higher elevation areas not immediately adjacent to surface water drainage features. Thus, it is important to also consider subsurface geology as a limiting constraint on actual deep percolation to the MVGB aquifer (DRI Rajagopal and others, 2015; GEI, 2016b).

The distribution of geologic units within the basin is complex and has been formed by multiple processes, including: volcanism, glaciation, faulting, sedimentary deposit and erosion. These processes occurred in various orders, occasionally producing locally varying stratigraphic sequences. The basin is surrounded and underlain by non-water bearing Cretaceous granitic and Tertiary volcanic rocks (andesite) (TDPUD, NCSD, PCWA, 2013).

Although, the geologic history and stratigraphy of the MVGB is complex, generalized interpretations have been developed that adequately describe the primary geologic formations. **Figure 5** provides the stratigraphic relationships for these primary geologic formations (TDPUD, NCSD, PCWA, 2013). The basement granites and volcanic rocks are overlain by (in generally descending depth) Quaternary Glacial Till and Outwash, Juniper Flats Alluvium, Prosser Creek Alluvium, Lousetown Volcanics and Sediments and Truckee Formation. Note that in some units, interfingered sediments, both fine grained and coarse, are present as a result of the previously mentioned sequence of geologic processes. These interbeds can locally affect well production and groundwater conditions.

Figure 4 shows the trends of three geologic cross sections that were also developed as part of the MVGB GMP. The cross sections are shown in **Figures 6 through 8** and provide an interpretive view of the complex distribution of geologic units and structural features in the subsurface (TDPUD, NCSD, PCWA, 2013).

There are multiple faults in the basin; the surficial trends of which are presented in the MVGB GMP as well as in the attached Hydrogeologic Alternative Plan Support document (GEI, 2016b) Vertical interpretations of the fault offsets are also shown on **Figures 6 through 8**. Most of the faults are unnamed but trend generally northwest-southeast, and can be the source of laterally confining conditions, compartmentalization of the MVGB aquifer, or a conduit for flow for groundwater from upgradient portions of the aquifer or higher elevation recharge zones. Faults have also been theorized to influence the locations of artesian groundwater conditions, springs, and seeps (Hunter and others, 2011; GEI, 2016b).

2.2. Groundwater Recharge and Discharge

Groundwater recharge sources for the basin were defined as part of watershed scale modeling effort model by Desert Research Institute (DRI) (DRI Rajagopal and others; 2015). The model estimated recharge consists of the sum of shallow infiltrated water that discharges into the Truckee River and its tributaries as well as deep percolation to the MVGB aquifer. This study also noted that groundwater recharge typically occurs through coarse alluvium associated with fluvial deposits, along mountain fronts, and across exposures of Quaternary alluvium in the central portions of the basin. Additional recharge also occurs at higher elevations in weathered and fractured volcanic upland areas; however, recharge rates are very limited by the low permeability of these volcanic units (DRI Rajagopal and others, 2015).

Figure 6: Cross Section A-A

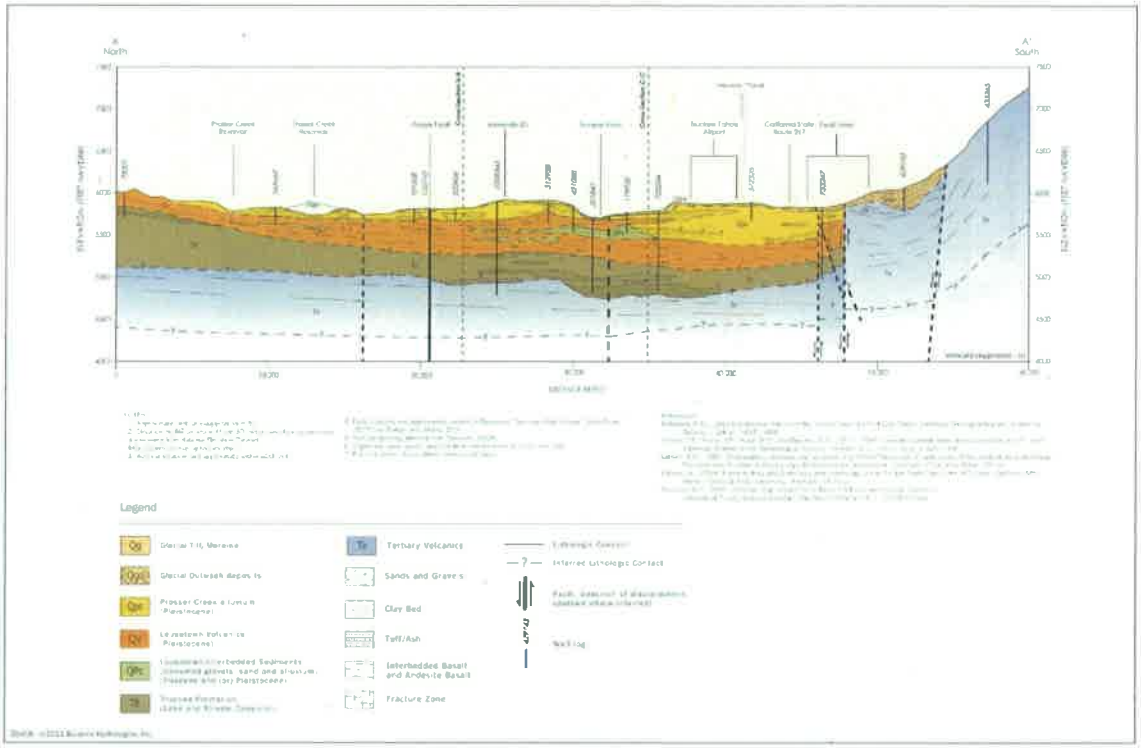
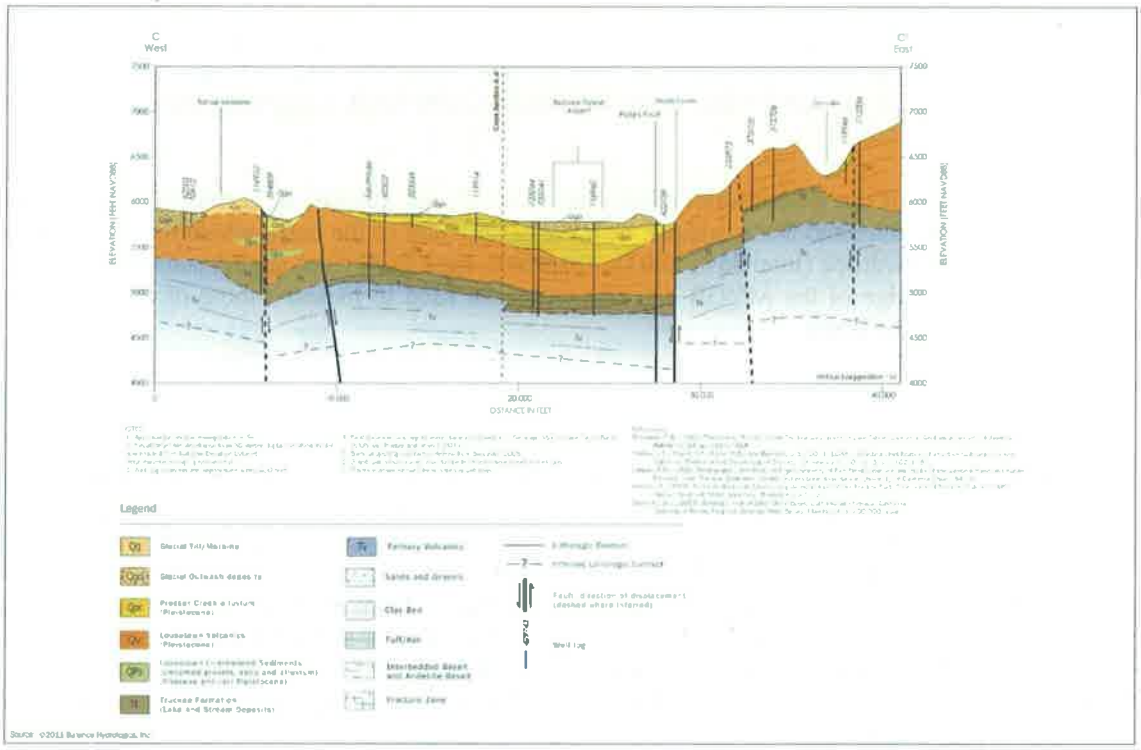


Figure 8: Cross Section C-C



PART TWO: BASIN MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION AND PLAN

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

This Alternative Submittal collaboratively proposes one Management Area (See **Figure 9**) that covers the entire MVGB. There are six local public agencies (Local SGMA Agencies) that serve water, have the authority to serve water, or have land-use authority in the MVGB and their overlapping jurisdictions cover the entire basin (See Table 1 and **Figure 10**). There are no other water suppliers or land-use agencies in the MVGB eligible to comply with SGMA. Truckee Donner Public Utility District Staff is serving as the Administering Manager for this Alternative Submittal.

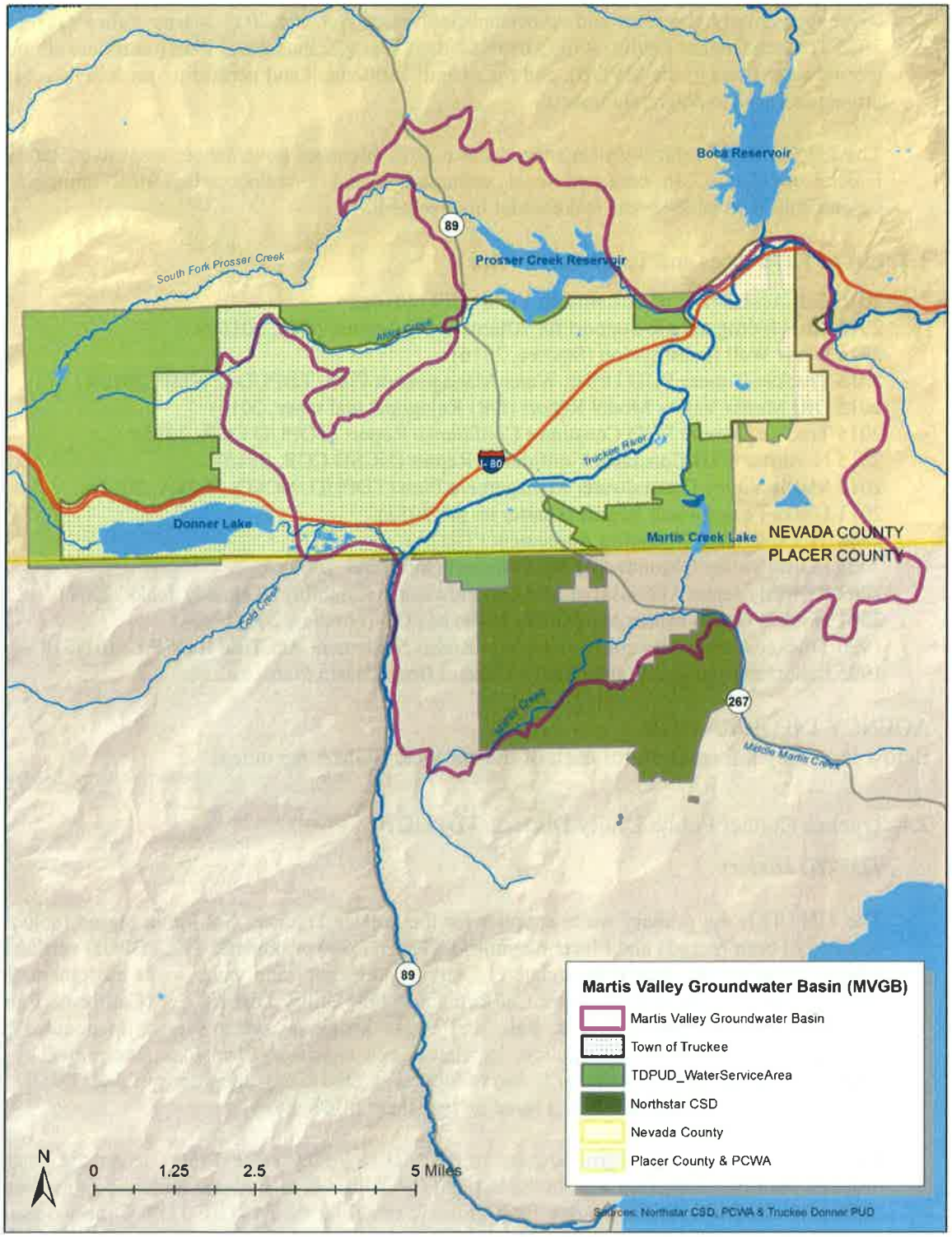
Table 1: Local SGMA Agencies

Name	Address	Contact	Phone	Email
Truckee Donner Public Utility District	11570 Donner Pass Rd Truckee, CA 96161	Steven Poncelet, Public Information & Conservation Manager	(530) 582-3951	stevenponcelet@tdpudl.org
Northstar Community Services District	900 Northstar Drive Truckee, CA 96161	Mike Staudenmayer, General Manager	(530) 550-6128	mikes@northstarcsd.org
Placer County Water Agency	144 Ferguson Road Auburn, CA 95603	Tony Firenzi, Deputy Director of Technical Services	(530) 823-4886	tfirenzi@pcwa.net
Town of Truckee	10183 Truckee Airport Truckee, CA 96161	Tony Lashbrook, Town Manager	(530) 582-7700	tlashbrook@townoftruckee.com
Nevada County	950 Maidu Avenue Nevada City, CA 95959	Amy Irani, Environmental Health Director	(530) 265-1464	amy.irani@co.nevada.ca.us
Placer County	175 Fulweiler Avenue Auburn, CA 95603	Brett Storey, Principal Management Analyst	(530) 745-3011	bstorey@placer.ca.gov

1.1. Summary of Management Approach, Organization of Partners, and General Conditions in the MVGB

The Local SGMA Agencies have jointly adopted a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) for preparing and submitting this Alternative Submittal, for on-going SGMA compliance, and for formalizing a process for the public to participate in SGMA compliance (the MOA is Appendix D). This MOA includes the formation of a SGMA Management Committee, comprised of appointed Local SGMA Agencies staff, to coordinate compliance activities, oversee the work of the SGMA Administering Manager, help communicate with local stakeholders, and provide a forum for the public to participate in the Alternative Submittal and provide inputs or address concerns.

Figure 10: MVGB Local SGMA Agencies Jurisdictional Boundaries



Currently, Placer County Water Agency is the California Statewide Groundwater Elevation Monitoring (CASGEM) Monitoring Entity for the MVGB with TDPUD operating three production wells that are part of the CASGEM program. TDPUD has worked closely with the sister water agencies in the MVGB – Placer County Water Agency (PCWA) and Northstar Community Services District (NSCSD) –in coordinating stewardship of the basin and watershed, including the collaborative development of the 2013 Martis Valley Groundwater Management Plan (TDPUD, NCSD, PCWA, 2013).

TDPUD, as an Urban Water Supplier in the MVGB, has completed the 2015 Urban Water Management Plan (TDPUD UWMP, 2015) that considers availability of water supply, current demand, and future demand for the major groundwater users in the MVGB. TDPUD has worked closely with the Town of Truckee, Nevada County, and Placer County in providing information regarding the impacts of proposed developments and water supply and quality. TDPUD, in partnership with PCWA and NSCSD, has been very active in supporting state-of-the-art science regarding the MVGB; including direct participation and funding of the United States Bureau of Reclamation's Truckee River Basin Study and associated DRI Martis Valley Integrated Watershed Groundwater Model (DRI Rajagopal and others, 2015), along with other studies.

TDPUD is also a signatory to the Truckee River Operating Agreement (TROA) which is an agreement between California and State of Nevada interests, enacted by an act of the United States Congress, and which sets limits on use of surface and groundwater within the Truckee River Basin.

Governance of TDPUD

The TDPUD is governed by a five-member Board of Directors, elected to staggered, four-year terms by eligible public voters. The Board meets on the first and third Wednesdays of each month at 6:00 PM, at the TDPUD Board room at 11570 Donner Pass Road. All meetings are open to the public and published in accordance with the Brown Act. The website (www.tdpud.org) provides a portal for meeting agendas, meeting minutes, newsletters and news releases.

The TDPUD's Board sets policy and delegates authority through TDPUD's District Code. TDPUD Board, as the governing agency overseeing TDPUD's activities in the MVGB, is responsible for stewardship of the basin, compliance with State/Federal regulations, and overall policy on water issues.

Legal Authorities of TDPUD

The California Public Utility District Act gives TDPUD the power, as limited by the Act, to do any and every lawful act necessary to provide that sufficient water may be available for any present or future beneficial use or uses of the lands or inhabitants within the TDPUD's service territory, including, but not limited to, irrigation, domestic, fire protection, municipal, commercial, industrial, recreational, and all other beneficial uses and purposes. The TDPUD is an authorized groundwater management agency within the meaning of California Water Code 10753 (a).

Additionally, the Public Utility District Act gives the TDPUD the power to appropriate and acquire water and water rights, to defend any action or proceeding involving or affecting the ownership or use of waters or water rights or involving the wasteful use of water. The TDPUD

The NCSD has managed groundwater in the Martis Valley since the 2006 when the District installed its first production well in the basin. Prior to this, all water was sourced by surface water. Currently, the District operates five wells in the Martis Valley Groundwater Basin. The District is one of two public water purveyors in the basin (TDPUD as the other) with the main production wells having capacities ranging from 220 to 850 gallons per minute (gpm).

NCSD has worked closely with the sister water agencies in the Martis Valley Groundwater Basin – Placer County Water Agency (PCWA) and Truckee Donner Public Utility District (TDPUD) –in coordinating stewardship of the basin and watershed; including the collaborative development of the 2013 Martis Valley Groundwater Management Plan (TDPUD, NCSD, PCWA, 2013).

NCSD, in partnership with PCWA and TDPUD, has been very active in supporting state-of-the-art science regarding the Martis Valley Groundwater Basin; including direct participation and funding of the United States Bureau of Reclamation's Truckee River Basin Study and associated 2015 DRI Martis Valley Integrated Watershed Groundwater Model (DRI Rajagopal and others, 2015) along with other studies.

Governance of NCSD

The NCSD is governed by a five-member Board of Directors, elected to staggered, four-year terms by eligible public voters. The Board typically meets on the third Wednesdays of each month at 9:00 AM, in the NCSD Board room at 900 Northstar Drive. All meetings are open to the public and notices are posted at least 72 hours prior to the meetings, in accordance with the Brown Act. Agendas are distributed via the NCSD's website, email, and in hard copy. The website (www.northstarcsd.org) provides a portal for meeting agendas, meeting minutes, newsletters and news releases.

The NCSD's Board sets policy and delegate's authority through NCSD's District Ordinance and through decisions made at public board meetings. The NCSD Board, as the governing agency overseeing NCSD's activities in the Martis Valley Groundwater Basin, is responsible for stewardship of the basin, compliance with State/Federal regulations, and overall policy on water issues.

Legal Authorities of NCSD

NCSD is a community services district formed under the provisions of California Government Code sections 61000 and following. Section 61100 provides:

Within its boundaries, a district may do any of the following:
Supply water for any beneficial uses, in the same manner as a municipal water district, formed pursuant to the Municipal Water District Law of 1911, Division 20 (commencing with Section 71000) of the Water Code. In the case of any conflict between that division and this division, the provisions of this division shall prevail.

Therefore, because the District clearly has water supply responsibilities (and has provided water service to its customers since 1991), under Water Code section 10721(n), the District is a "local agency." Thus it has the legal authority to submit an Alternative Submittal under section 10733.6 and related regulations.

gpm. There were four major developments that were constructed in the Agency's Zone 4 system. The developments were Lahontan, Shaffer's Mill, Hopkins Ranch and Martis Camp. The Agency developed and managed the Martis Valley Zone 4 Water System from 1997 until October of 2015, when it was turned over to the adjacent Northstar Community Services District.

Currently, the Agency is the CASGEM Monitoring Entity for the Martis Valley Groundwater Basin and has continued to be active in the groundwater basin through its stewardship role as a county-wide water agency.

Governance of Agency

The Agency is governed by a five-member Board of Directors, elected to four-year terms by geographic areas, which coincide with the County's supervisorial districts. The Board meets on the first and third Thursdays of each month at 2:00 PM, usually at the PCWA Business Center at 144 Ferguson Road, in Auburn. Meetings are occasionally held in other areas of the County (such as east slope of Placer County) to encourage more public participation. All meetings are open to the public and notices are publicly posted at least 72 hours prior to the meetings, in accordance with the Brown Act. Agendas are distributed via the Agency's website, fax, email and postal mail. The media is notified via e-mail. The local newspaper also publishes meeting notices. The website (www.pcwa.net) provides a portal for meeting agendas, meeting minutes, newsletters and news releases.

Legal Authorities of Agency

The Agency's Act (PCWA Act) gives it the power, as limited by the act, to do any and every lawful act necessary to provide that sufficient water may be available for any present or future beneficial use or uses of the lands or inhabitants within the Agency, including, but not limited to, irrigation, domestic, fire protection, municipal, commercial, industrial, recreational, and all other beneficial uses and purposes.

Additionally, the PCWA Act gives the Agency the power to store water in surface or underground reservoirs within or outside of the agency for the common benefit of the agency; to conserve and reclaim water for present and future use within the agency; to appropriate and acquire water and water rights, and to import water into the agency and to conserve and utilize water, within or outside of the agency, for any purpose useful to the agency. Power is also granted to the Agency to defend any action or proceeding involving or affecting the ownership or use of waters or water rights or involving the wasteful use of water. The Agency also has the power to prevent interference with or diminution of rights in the natural flow of any stream or surface or subterranean supply of waters. The Agency has the power to prevent unlawful exportation of water from the Agency, to prevent contamination, pollution or otherwise rendering surface or subsurface water unfit for beneficial use by the Agency.

Budget Related to Cost of Sustainable Basin Management

The Agency has spent considerable amounts of money over the years in sustainably managing the groundwater basins in western and eastern Placer County. In western Placer County the Agency has been involved in groundwater management since the 1960's. The active management duties have increased over the years through the planning and preparation of groundwater management plans and related activities and updates, groundwater elevation

Governance of Agency

The Town of Truckee is a "charter city" (approved by vote in 1995). As a charter city the elected five-person Town Council has the authority, given by the voters, to act independently of the state on purely local issues. The Town Council appoints the Town Manager and the Town Attorney. The Council's primary responsibility is to set Town policy and enact laws that are carried out by Town staff. Policies set by the Council include land use and zoning on all properties in Town. It can also include speed limits, leash laws, building codes, boating restrictions, trash rates, transit routes, and other topics. The Council also adopts the Town Budget. Additionally, the Council does significant long range planning for land use (through the General Plan) and financial planning (through 5 and 20 Year Capital Plans, Road Maintenance Plans, and Equipment Replacement Plans).

All Council decisions require a majority vote, so members must work together, and sometimes compromise, to achieve community goals. With few exceptions authorized by state law, Council decisions must be made in public meetings so that citizens can see and participate in the public decision making process. The Town of Truckee follows Roberts Rules of Order for the procedures and conduct of meetings and the Brown Act to ensure that an open and public decision-making process is followed.

The Council also serves as the Redevelopment Successor Agency Board. The Town is the planning authority, within the Town of Truckee Town boundaries, for areas overlying the MVGB.

Key policies related to groundwater from the Truckee General Plan:

Goal COS-11 Protect water quality and quantity in creeks, lakes, natural drainages and groundwater basins.

Policies

P11.1 Minimize excessive paving that negatively impacts surface water runoff and groundwater recharge rates.

P11.2 Protect surface and groundwater resources from contamination from runoff containing pollutants and sediment, through implementation of the Regional Water Quality Control Board's (RWQCB) Lahontan Region's, Best Management Practices.

P11.3 Cooperate with State and local agencies in efforts to identify and eliminate all sources of existing and potential point and non-point sources of pollution to ground and surface waters, including leaking fuel tanks, discharges from storm drains, auto dismantling, dump sites, sanitary waste systems, parking lots, roadways, and logging and mining operations.

P11.7 Ensure that all proposed developments can be adequately served by available water supplies.

P11.8 Support all efforts to encourage water conservation by Truckee residents and businesses, and public agencies, including working with the Truckee Donner Public Utility District, to implement water conservation programs and incentives that facilitate conservation efforts.

P11.9 Recognize the importance of stormwater management in protecting all water resources in Truckee, for example, flood control, surface and ground water quality, and river, stream and lake health.

Through our Land Use Development Ordinance, and our Local Primacy Agency agreement with the State Water Resources Control Board, NCDEH has been regulating the construction and locations of private wells since 1991 and the water supply of Small Public Water Systems since 1993.

Governance of Agency

Nevada County's governing body is a five (5) member Board of District Supervisors, elected for four-year staggered terms on a nonpartisan ballot. The Board typically meets two Tuesdays a month in the Board of Supervisors Chambers at the Eric Rood Center in Nevada City and once a year in Truckee at the Truckee Town Hall. All meetings are open to the public and the agendas are posted the Thursday prior to the meeting in accordance with the Brown Act. Agendas are available for public review on bulletin boards located at the Eric Rood Center (outside the Board office, outside the Board Chambers, and outside the main entrance), at the Madelyn Helling Library, at Truckee Town Hall, at the District V Board of Supervisors Conference Room and on the County's website. Among other duties, the Board enacts ordinances, adopts the annual budget, approves contracts, appropriates funds, determines land use zoning for the unincorporated area, and appoints certain county officers, including the CEO and members of various boards and commissions.

The Supervisor Districts were incorporated in 1851 and the first District Supervisors began their tenure in 1856. Each District has assigned City, Town and unincorporated County areas of responsibility and representation. District I encompasses Nevada City and the unincorporated areas of Banner Mountain, Cascade Shores, Deer Creek and the Highway 174 corridor. District II encompasses the communities of Alta Sierra, Lake of the Pines, and unincorporated areas along Highway 49. District III encompasses the City of Grass Valley, Cedar Ridge, the Brunswick Basin, Squirrel Creek, and unincorporated areas along Highways 49 and 20. District IV encompasses the communities of Penn Valley, North San Juan, Rough & Ready, Lake Wildwood, Spenceville, and unincorporated areas along Highways 20 and 49 and District V encompasses the Town of Truckee, and the communities of Soda Springs, Washington, Graniteville, Hirschdale, Boca, Floriston, and unincorporated areas along Highways 49, 20, 89, and Interstate 80 and includes the Martis Valley Ground Water Basin.

Legal Authorities of Agency

Nevada County began the regulation of ground water supply to residential and commercial operations in 1991 with the Board of Supervisors approved Land Use Development Ordinance. Subsequently in 1993, and signed again in 2013, Nevada County entered into a Local Primacy Agency (LPA) agreement with the State of California (originally California Department of Public Health and later with the State Water Resources Control Board) to oversee the small public water systems in Nevada County. The ordinance and LPA agreement provided specific guidelines, regulatory authority and standards for the design, construction and operation of individual, small private and small public water supplies in Nevada County.

The purpose of the ordinance was to ensure the following: (1) that every well is constructed so as not to pollute groundwater, (2) that potable water is provided in every building for which a plumbing permit is issued, and (3) that potable water resources are determined and made available for every parcel of land. The LPA agreement required that small public water supply systems be approved, overseen and permitted by NCDEH, as defined by the California Safe

describing the proposed action, the agencies or departments with primary responsibility for carrying out the program, the time frame for accomplishing the program, and the funding source.

Section 6 (Natural Resources) is divided into seven sub issues.

The Water Resources sub-issue's Goal (6.A) is to protect and enhance the natural qualities of Placer County's rivers, streams, creeks and groundwater.

Policy 6.A.13 states that the County shall protect groundwater resources from contamination and further overdraft by pursuing the following efforts:

- Identifying and controlling sources of potential contamination;
- Protecting important groundwater recharge areas;
- Encouraging the use of surface water to supply major municipal and industrial consumptive demands;
- Encouraging the use of treated wastewater for groundwater recharge.

Policy 6.A.15 states that the County shall encourage the protection of floodplain lands and, where appropriate, acquire public easements for purposes of flood protection, public safety, wildlife preservation, groundwater recharge, access and recreation.

Implementation Program 6.4 states that the County shall prepare, adopt, and implement a comprehensive surface and groundwater management program to ensure the long-term protection and maintenance of surface and groundwater resources. This water management program requires several elements. Element 6.4.b. requires coordination and cooperation with other public and private agencies, organizations, and groups that have an interest in water resources management in the County or surrounding areas. This should include, but not be limited to (among others) the California Groundwater Association and other private, professional groups interested in water supply protection (6.4.b.14). Element 6.4.c. requires the application of sound water resources management principles, including (among others) groundwater recharge and aquifer protection. Finally, the sub-issue Vegetation also includes Policy 6.D.7, which requires the County to support the management of wetland and riparian plant communities for, among other benefits, groundwater recharge.

Governance of Agency

The Board of Supervisors is the governing body of Placer County and certain special districts.

The Board enacts ordinances and resolutions, adopts the annual budget, approves contracts, appropriates funds, determines land use zoning for the unincorporated area, and appoints certain County officers, including the CEO and members of various boards and commissions.

Legal Authorities of Agency

Placer County has accepted its responsibility to work with all eligible agencies via the SGMA regulations to be responsible for the groundwater/basin management of a sustainable basin. In addition, Placer County will also supply comments during land use project review that provide for the appropriate management of the groundwater resources within the MVGB.

Figure 11: MVGB General and Community Plans

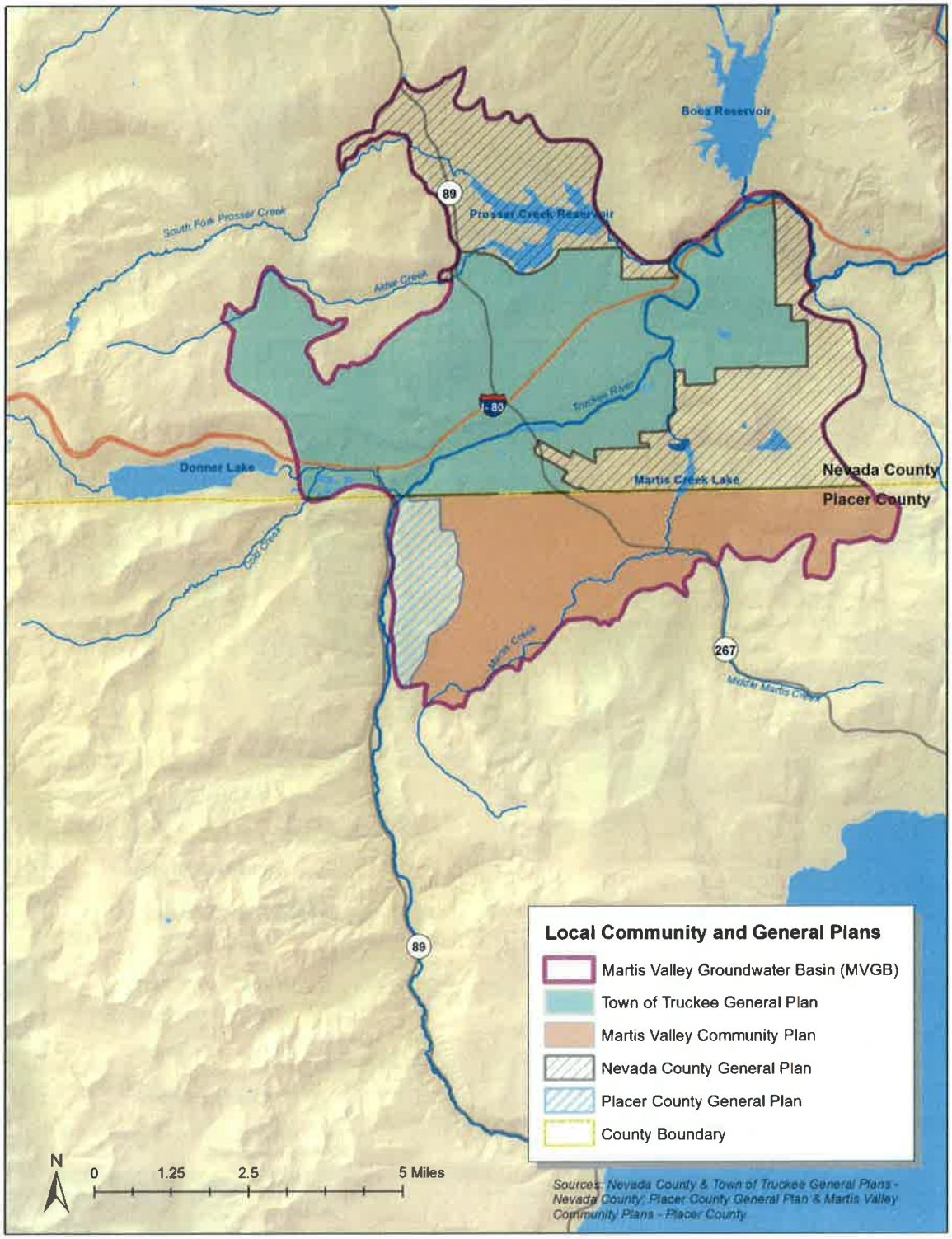
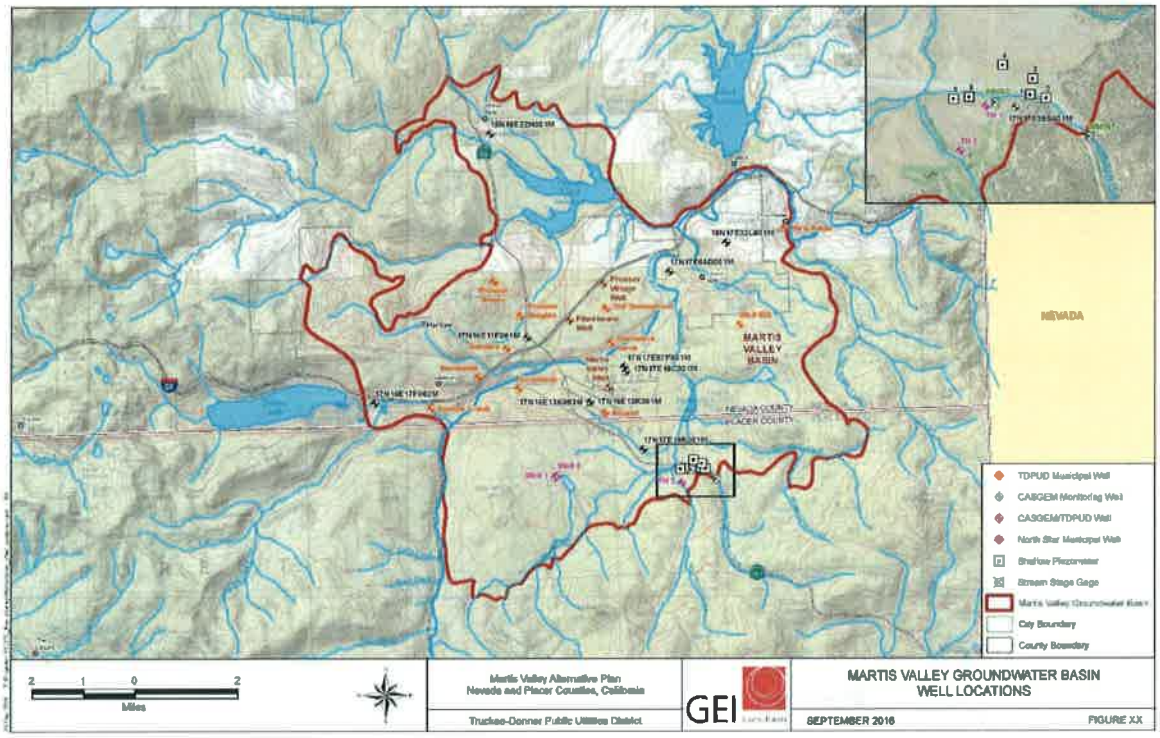


Figure 13: MVGB Well Locations



Individual hydrographs and supporting analyses for the 14 CASGEM monitoring wells are presented in the GEI Alternative Submittal Hydrogeologic Support document for both fall and spring seasons (GEI, 2016b). **Figure 15** shows long-term groundwater elevation hydrographs for the 14 CASGEM monitoring wells in the MVGB. Groundwater elevations are locally variable in the MVGB both temporally and spatially. These data suggest that local pumping (increases or decreases) or recharge influences likely impact short term groundwater elevation trends. Seasonally, the monitoring wells reflect higher water levels in the spring and lower levels in the fall.

Overall, groundwater levels have been relatively stable in the MVGB, even during the drought of the early 1990s, the wet years of the late 1990s, and recent drought conditions over the past 5 to 9 years. Water levels generally range in elevation from just above 5600 feet above mean sea level (amsl) to just over 6100 feet amsl. Changes in historical pumping and climate (wet and dry years) have affected water level trends in specific time periods, although at the basin scale quantifiable changes appear to be localized. It has been demonstrated in recent reports (GEI 2016a) that gross pumping represents less than 2% of the flows out of the system and closer to 1% when returns from the regional sewage treatment plant are considered.

Groundwater Quality

Groundwater quality in the MVGB is generally of good quality and is monitored as part of the water provider agencies' agreements with the California Department of Public Health. Each agency releases an annual water quality report for their service areas in the MVGB. The USGS carried out groundwater monitoring activities in the MVGB in cooperation with the California State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) as part of the California Groundwater Ambient Monitoring and Assessment (GAMA) Program (Fram and others, 2007) and sampled 14 wells in the MVGB for a wide range of constituents during summer 2007. The concentrations of most constituents detected in these samples were below drinking-water thresholds, with two exceptions: a) concentrations of naturally occurring arsenic were above the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) in 4 of the 14 wells sampled, and b) manganese concentrations were elevated above the MCL in one well. Arsenic levels above the MCL have also been reported by the TDPUD; however, this issue has been addressed operationally by the TDPUD and drinking water standards are currently being satisfied. Details on MVGB water quality and be found in the TDPUD and NCSD Consumer Confidence Reports (TDPUD CCR, 2015; NCSD CCR, 2015).

Only highly localized areas of contamination above relevant regulatory standards are present at any of the sites where documentation was available by the SWRCB's GeoTracker database or DWR records in the MVGB. None have impacted or are anticipated to impact drinking water supplies. A summary of these locations is presented in GEI's Hydrogeologic Support for Alternative Submittal (2016b).

Change in Groundwater Storage

GEI recently completed an analysis of the water budget of the MVGB and refined the estimate of sustainable yield for the basin (GEI, 2016a). This work was performed to assess the historic and current sustainable management of the basin and also to functionally comply with SGMA regulations addressing responsible governance of the MVGB. **Figure 16** depicts estimates of the annual and cumulative change in groundwater in storage, based on the best available data between approximately 1991 through 2014. The analyses and data used to generate this figure

Figure 15: Martis Valley Historic Water Surface Elevation

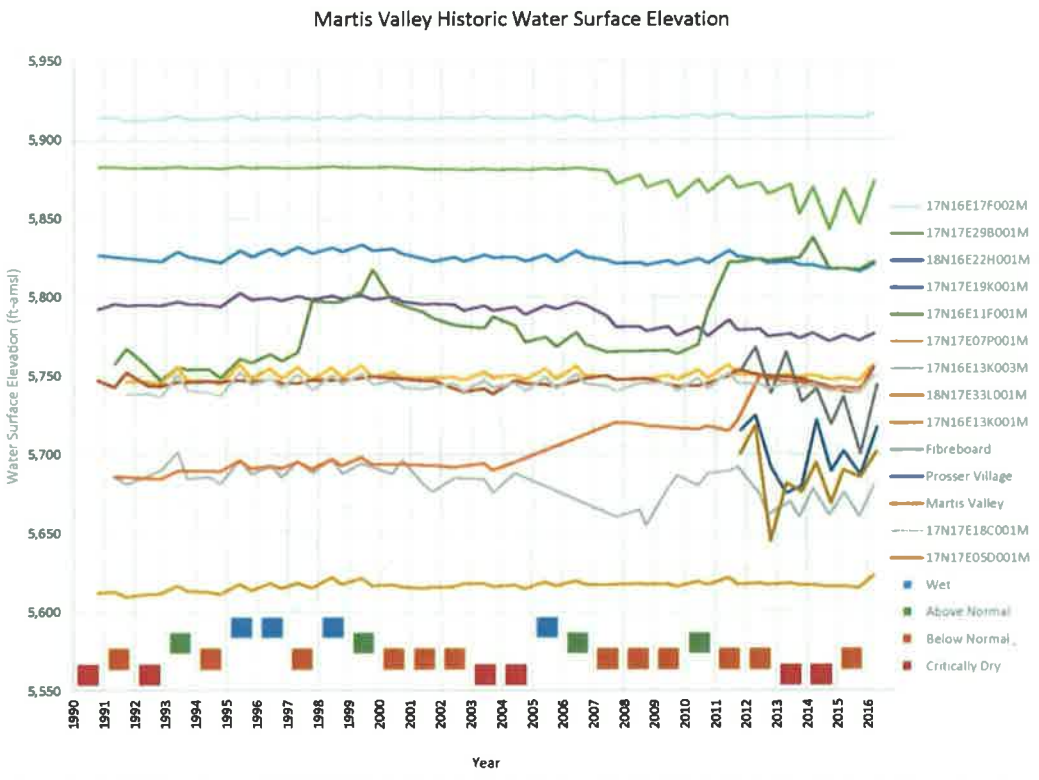
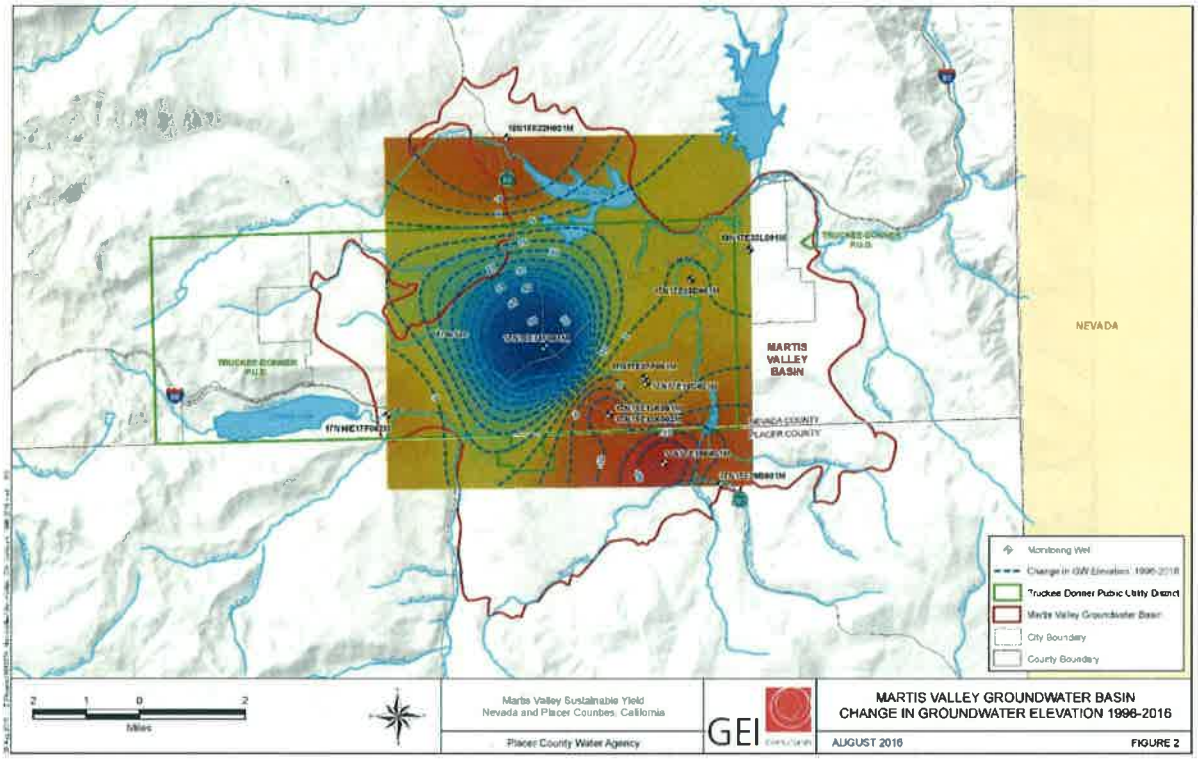


Figure 17: MVGB Change in Groundwater Elevation 1996-2016



4. WATER BUDGET

A water budget analysis was performed for the period 1990 through 2014 to further refine previous estimates of groundwater sustainable yield and to support SGMA compliance (GEI, 2016a). This analysis leveraged previous work, including the 2013 Martis Valley Groundwater Management Plan (TDPUD, NCSD, PCWA, 2013), the 2015 watershed-scale integrated surface water and groundwater flow model by DRI (DRI Rajagopal and other, 2015), additional review of 2015 conditions (GEI, 2016b) and review of numerous previous groundwater studies focusing upon on sustainable yield and recharge within the basin. Each of the calendar years was compared with deviations from mean annual precipitation, allowing assessment of impacts from wet and dry years. The most recent work provides an improved degree of confidence in the estimated MVGB sustainable yield. A more extensive description of the basin water budget and sustainable yield can be found in the two recent reports by GEI (GEI, 2016a; GEI, 2016b)

4.1. Summary of Components

The water budget shows the largest inflow component (about 53 percent) is from the Truckee River, Donner Creek, and Boca Reservoir. The next highest component of inflow is precipitation which was derived from the modeling performed by the Desert Research Institute (DRI Rajagopal and other, 2015). The third largest component is inflow from Prosser Creek, which is not gaged and was only measured once since 1990 (Nimbus, 2001). These five sources account for 92 percent of the total hydrologic inflows to the MVGB.

The water budget shows the largest outflow component (about 80 percent) is along the Truckee River, which is gaged. The next highest component is evapotranspiration (18 percent), which has a higher degree of uncertainty due to using average reference ETo values and rough estimates of acreage. Municipal groundwater pumping averaged about 7,000 AFY and represents less than 2 percent of the total average annual outflow from the basin.

The water budget inflow components are 74 percent quantified with high quality gaging data with respect to the average annual water budget volume. Water budget outflow components are over 80 percent quantified with high quality gaging and metered flows from municipal water supplies. The quantifiable understanding of the average annual hydrologic water budget for the MVGB is high; in part due to the impact of the large fraction of Truckee River flows as well as the fact that the MVGB does not share a boundary with a neighboring groundwater basin and does not have the uncertainty associated with groundwater underflow estimates along basin boundaries.

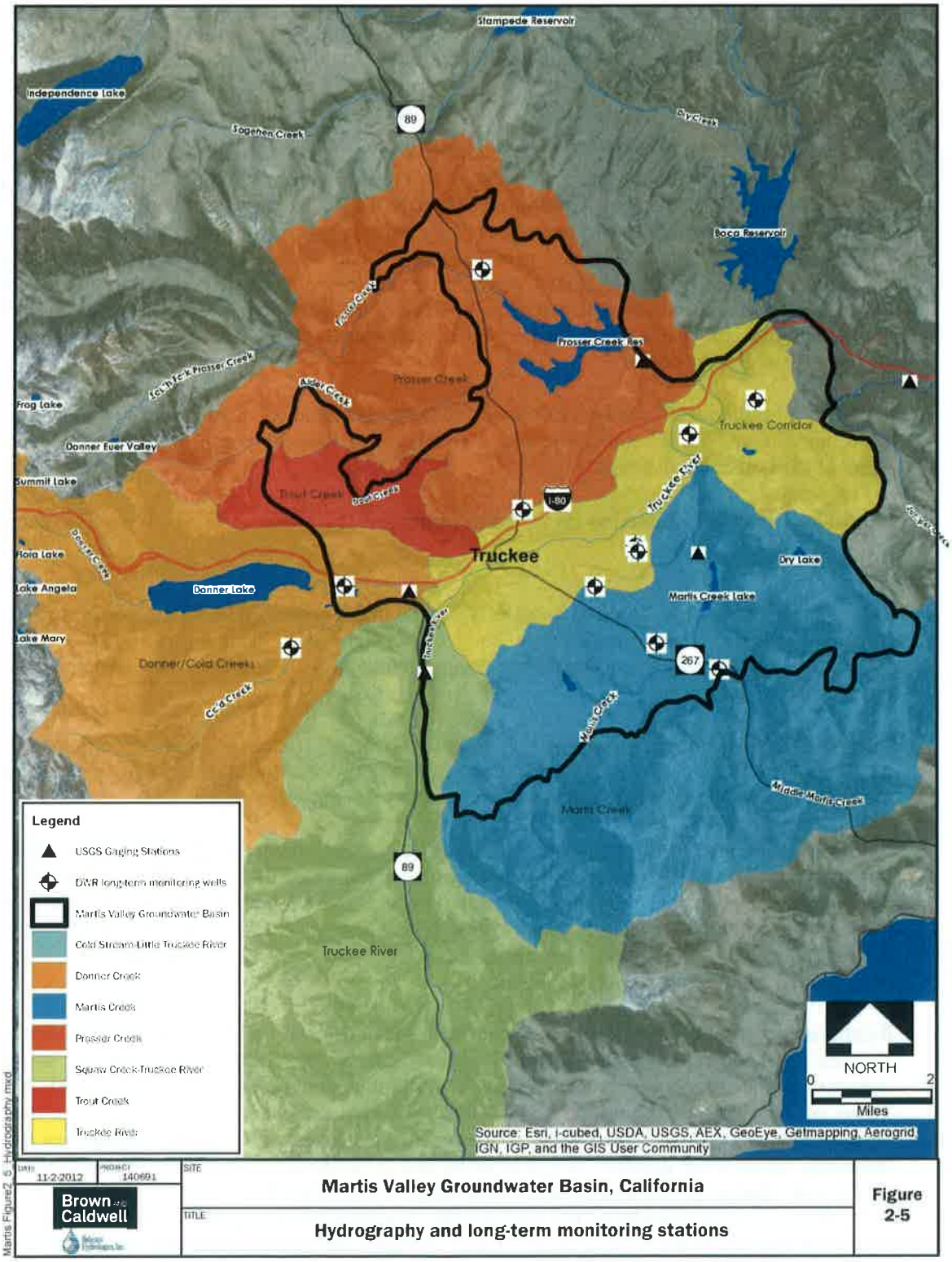
4.2. Change in Annual Storage

The average annual groundwater change in storage based on the water balance is about 15,000 acre-feet per year (AFY). The annual range in estimates has some uncertainty regarding evapotranspiration and impacts from reservoir releases on groundwater. Future refinements of the water balance will continue to improve the balance between storage and evapotranspiration estimates, which are anticipated to increase this estimate of available water.

4.3. Estimated Sustainable Yield

The average annual groundwater extractions through the water budget study period is on the order of 7,000 AFY. The water budget shows the basin has an average surplus of about 15,000 AFY. Adding the surplus to the existing pumping would suggest the sustainable yield is about 22,000 AFY, well above the estimated future pumping at basin buildout (~13,000 AFY).

Figure 19: MVGB Hydrography and Long-Term Monitoring Stations



Well development, management and closure programs: The Town of Truckee does not exercise regulatory authority over private wells in the Town. However, the Town General Plan does discourage the use of private wells to serve new development. Well permits are issued by Nevada County and subject to the provisions of the Truckee River Operating Agreement (TROA).

Nevada County

Description of area: Nevada County is characterized by a large and diverse hydrologic system. Surface water drainage is comprised of three watersheds: The Truckee River basin in the eastern part of the County; and the Yuba River and Bear River basins in the western part of the County. These watersheds supply water to serve portions of both northern California and western Nevada, and many of the creeks and rivers produce hydroelectricity as well.

The MVGB encompasses Nevada and Placer Counties and over 40 percent of the total MVGB acreage is located in Nevada County. The County of Nevada extends from the Sacramento Valley at an elevation of 300 feet to the crest of the Sierra Nevada Mountains at an elevation of 9,143 feet which is the peak of Mount Lola.

The terrain provides a significant watershed which drains into the Bear, Middle and South Yuba and Truckee Rivers. The snow and water which accumulate in the watershed provide significant recreational resources for winter and summer activities such as skiing, boating and fishing.

Integrated Regional Water Management Plans: The County of Nevada works cooperatively with Placer County, Town of Truckee and Truckee Donner Public Utility District in the shared use of the MVGB per the existing Martis Valley Groundwater Management Plan. The 2013 Martis Valley Groundwater Management Plan (TDPUD, PCWA, NCSD, 2013) is the only integrated water management plan for eastern Nevada County.

Western Nevada County Regional water management group (CABY) includes the Consumnes, American, Bear and Yuba Water sheds. CABY is a cooperative agreement between Nevada Irrigation District, Washington County Water District, City of Grass Valley and City of Nevada City, which represents four of the five water service providers for western Nevada County.

Stormwater Program: The County of Nevada General Plan is to preserve the natural environment to include preservation of natural habitats, water resources, forests, mineral resources and scenic qualities of the County. Based upon these principles, the General Plan follows the guidelines set forth in the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Storm Water Permitting Requirements.

Well development, management and closure programs: The County of Nevada Land Use and Development Code Well Ordinance provides standards for design, construction and operation of individual, small private and public water supplies in Nevada County. The purpose of the Ordinance is to ensure that every well is constructed to not pollute groundwater, ensure that potable water is provided in every building that is issued a plumbing permit and that potable water resources are determined and made available for every developed parcel in Nevada County.

The Ordinance provides the requirements for permitting, construction, repair, and destruction of water wells, monitoring wells and cathodic protection wells.

Water supply is required before construction:

- As to any lot of less than 100,000 square feet no person shall commence construction of a single family residential building thereon until water adequate for domestic use is provided on such lot from a well constructed in compliance with Chapter 19 of the Well Ordinance.
- Water shall be adequate for domestic use if the water, the source, and any storage facility meet all applicable State and County public health standards and meets current requirements of Chapter 19 of the Well Ordinance.
- Abandoned wells: As a condition of a construction or modification permit, any abandoned wells on the property shall be destroyed in accordance with standards provided in the Placer County Well Ordinance.

Groundwater Quality Protection and Management

The two public agencies that serve water in the MVGB (Truckee Donner Public Utility District and Northstar Community Services District) are fully compliant with all State and Federal water quality regulations. There are no know human caused contaminants and the only naturally occurring contaminants are magnesium and arsenic. More detailed information regarding groundwater quality can be found in the annual Consumer Confidence Reports (TDPUD CCR, 2015; NCSD CCR, 2015).

6.2. Recycled Water Production

There is no formal recycled water production in the MVGB other than the regional wastewater treatment plant, Truckee Tahoe Sanitation Agency, which processes sewage from the Martis Valley and surrounding areas along with sewage imported from North Lake Tahoe and the communities of Kings Beach, Tahoe City, Alpine Meadows, and Olympic Valley. This plant was completed in 2009 and employs state of the art technology.

6.3. Conjunctive Use Program

There are no conjunction use programs in the MVGB. MVGB recharge is from natural sources augmented by the Truckee Tahoe Sanitation Agency wastewater treatment plant discharge.

7. NOTICE AND COMMUNICATION

7.1. Description of Groundwater Users

The MVGB is the primary water supply for the Town of Truckee, Northstar Ski Area, and the surrounding areas of the Martis Valley. Groundwater pumping is covered in detail in the Truckee Donner Public Utility District's 2015 Urban Water Management Plan (TDPUD UWMP, 2015) but is dominated by M&I use for the customers of the two public water agencies who operate in the MVGB (Truckee Donner Public Utility District and Northstar Community Services District). There are a small number of large, private wells which use groundwater, primarily, for snowmaking and golf course irrigation along with one aggregate mining operation in the MVGB as well. There are private residential wells in the outlying areas of the MVGB that also use groundwater.

7.3. Communications Plan

A communication plan, along with a stakeholder list, was developed to ensure public participation during the development of the Alternative Submittal and following approval. The plan is included in Appendix A.

8. INTRODUCTION TO SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT APPROACH

As stated previously, the MVGB has existing robust programs and policies that direct basin management to ensure continued operation within sustainable yield as defined by SGMA. This includes the water use limits under the Truckee River Operating Agreement (TROA) and Settlement Act, the 2013 Martis Valley GMP (TDPUD, NCSD, PCWA, 2013), the 2015 Truckee Donner Public Utility District Urban Water Management Plan (TDPUD UWMP, 2015; considers all major groundwater users in the MVGB), and the overall entitlement and permitting process to vet new projects. To support this existing local governance, the Local SGMA Agencies are proposing to create a SGMA Management Committee (Appendix D) which will help communicate with local stakeholders, support SGMA compliance activities, and provide a forum for the public to participate in the Alternative Submittal and provide inputs or address concerns.

The sustainability goal for the MVGB, as it relates to groundwater management, is to ensure long term quality and availability of groundwater in the MVGB (TDPUD, NCSD, PCWA, 2013). Additionally, the groundwater basin is to be managed in such a manner that no pervasive, significant and unreasonable effects are observed for SGMA related sustainability indicators; in particular, 1) no chronic and unreasonable lowering of groundwater levels and associated reduction in storage and 2) no significant depletions of surface water features that would adversely impact flows or their dependent ecosystems. Although there is currently no evidence of undesirable results related to water quality, seawater intrusion, or land subsidence; these sustainability indicators (SI's) will be tracked via ongoing groundwater and water quality monitoring programs.

The following management objectives have been previously defined for the MVGB and are intended to continue to maintain sustainable groundwater conditions for the next 20 years and beyond.

Basin Management Objectives (BMO's) were developed for the MVGB as a part of the 2013 Martis Valley GMP (TDPUD, NCSD, PCWA, 2013), and are intended to continue to support sustainable groundwater resources, and also address many of the sustainability goal guidelines provided in the SGMA regulations. The previously defined BMO's, which serve as a precursor to SGMA sustainability objectives, are listed below:

- Manage groundwater to maintain established and planned uses.
- Manage groundwater use within the provisions of the Truckee River Operating Agreement (TROA).
- Collaborate and cooperate with groundwater users and stakeholders in the MVGB.
- Protect groundwater quantity and quality.
- Pursue the best available science and technology to inform the decision making process.
- Consider the environment and participate in the stewardship of groundwater resources.

The qualitative criteria used to define undesirable results for chronic lowering of water levels include:

- Wells either going dry or losing functional pumping capacity;
- Significant and unreasonable effort being required to maintain or deepen production wells;
- Groundwater drawdown sufficient to impact surface water features or groundwater dependent ecosystems to a significant and unreasonable extent; and
- Creation of undesirable results for other sustainability indicators that are directly related to water level elevations.

Minimum threshold and measurable objectives have been established as:

- For wells not immediately adjacent to a primary surface water feature or groundwater dependent ecosystem:
- A Minimum Threshold of spring water levels no more than 20 feet below fall 2015 (baseline) water levels;
- An Interim Threshold of spring water levels no more than 15 feet below fall 2015 (baseline) water levels; and
- A Measureable Objective of spring water levels no more than 10 feet below fall 2015 (baseline) water levels;

For wells adjacent to a primary surface water feature:

- A Minimum Threshold and Measurable Objective of spring water levels no more than 10 feet below fall 2015 (baseline) water levels.

These sustainability criteria are all currently satisfied in the MVGB. They consider previous groundwater seasonal and climate related (multi-year) groundwater fluctuations observed in the MVGB, which range from +/- 10 feet to changes of over +/- 20 feet over longer periods of time at some well locations. They reflect the fact that groundwater level data and sustainable yield estimates reflect that current and past basin management has maintained sustainable conditions.

Additionally, these criteria consider potential impacts of future pumping, variations in groundwater recharge (drought), and potential future changes in spatial pumping distributions. Projected future pumping will also only comprise approximately 3% of the total basin water budget and will not exceed the estimated sustainable yield or water use limits established under the Settlement Act and TROA. All but three DWR monitoring wells must meet minimum thresholds in a given year (or 75% of monitoring wells); allowing for basin groundwater management activities to be performed to address any localized exceedances. An exceedance of the interim threshold will prompt additional study, monitoring, and operational changes to proactively address any conditions that may be managed to prevent further approaching of minimum thresholds. Because these criteria consider the other sustainability indicators, groundwater level measurements can also be used as a proxy for monitoring and preventing other potential other undesirable results (with the exception of water quality).

11.2. Description of Management Programs

The description of current and proposed management programs has been detailed in previous sections of this report and in the Executive Summary and more details on groundwater monitoring were provided in Section 6 of this report. In addition to the rigorous drinking water quality monitoring programs conducted by Truckee Donner Public Utility District and Northstar Community Services District, there is routine testing of surface water quality by a variety of local, State, and Federal organizations.

11.3. Summary of Degraded Water Quality Sustainable Management Criteria

The qualitative criteria used to define undesirable results from degraded water quality include:

- Drinking water quality violating relevant State and Federal drinking water standards;
- Emerging threats to human health via consumption or contact with contaminated groundwater.

Water quality in the MVGB is generally very good; a discussion of basin water quality is provided in in the supporting report by GEI (GEI, 2016b). There are no contaminant plumes identified within the basin, and naturally occurring constituents of concern, such as arsenic and manganese are being successfully managed. The sustainability criteria established for sustainable groundwater levels and storage depletion also makes it less likely that new groundwater quality undesirable results will be induced by future pumping. The measurable objective and minimum objective for the MVGB is to produce groundwater that meets State and Federal drinking water standards. Water from municipal production wells will continue to be tested for drinking water quality standards (for the purposes of SGMA). Locations are shown on **Figure's 13, 14, and 19**.

12. MANAGING SEAWATER INTRUSION

There are currently no undesirable results from seawater intrusion. None are considered to be likely in the future (GEI, 2016b). Thus, because negative impacts for this sustainability indicator are not present nor are able to occur in the MVGB, the minimum and measurable objective is that seawater is not to be detected in basin production wells. The water supply produced from municipal production wells will continue to be routinely monitored to meet drinking water standards.

13. MANAGING LAND SUBSIDENCE

13.1. Basin Land Subsidence Conditions

There is no evidence or scientific expectation that there has been any land subsidence in the MVGB. This Alternative Submittal proposes to use groundwater levels as a proxy for basin land subsidence. See Section 9.1.

13.2. Description of Management Programs

See Section 9.2

13.3. Summary of Land Subsidence Sustainable Management Criteria

The qualitative criteria used to define undesirable results from land subsidence include any related damage to infrastructure within the MVGB, such as: roadways, canals, pipes, or buildings.

only comprise approximately 3% of the average historic water budget. Thus, sufficient water will continue to be available to feed surface water features in the MVGB from a regional perspective. Any localized impacts to interconnected surface water will be detected and monitored via both groundwater monitoring wells (shallow and deep wells) adjacent to gaining reaches, springs, and associated ecosystems. Streamflow measurements at USGS and local streamgages in the basin will continue to be assessed to ensure that groundwater withdrawals are not producing significant and unreasonable impacts in immediately adjacent reaches or regionally.

A recent study by Stantec (Stantec, 2016) assessed potential impacts of local pumping and drought on water levels and surface water flows along the southern boundary of the basin, where modest declines in confined water levels have been observed. The study concluded that it is likely that both drought and pumping have produced a new equilibrium in the local piezometric surface; however, no impacts to surface water have been quantified. Water levels in the southern portion of the basin have rebounded in 2016, but additional monitoring study will be performed to determine if there is any impact from pumping adjacent to interconnected surface water.

Measurable objectives and minimum thresholds for depletions of interconnected surface water include criteria to address both regional and local scale potential impacts. Compliance with the minimum thresholds and measurable objectives for groundwater levels, which allow substantially less water level decline in monitoring wells near key surface water features, will be used as a proxy measurable indicator to prevent both regional and localized impacts (see Summary of Chronic Water Level Decline Sustainable Management Criteria). These criteria are intended to allow for some variation due to drought conditions and changes in pumping rates or spatial distribution while also limiting future declines that could decrease groundwater discharges to surface water. These criteria were set so that future changes in water levels have less risk of turning a gaining reach (groundwater discharge) into a losing reach (groundwater recharge).

Groundwater pumping should also remain below the threshold of the most recent estimate of sustainable yield (~22,000 AFY). The analysis that quantified this estimate considered both surface water and groundwater conditions, and future pumping is not projected to exceed it.

Data from USGS streamgaging stations located where the Truckee River enters and exits the MVGB as well as from tributaries to the Truckee River in the interior of the basin, will be used in conjunction with other components of the basin water budget to estimate the annual contribution of groundwater flow to Truckee River flow leaving the basin (GEI, 2016a). The estimate of groundwater contribution to the flow exiting the basin in the Truckee River should remain positive.

Recently installed shallow monitoring wells along the southern portion of the basin or adjacent to other surface water features in the basin should show no evidence of groundwater pumping causing a change of conditions from gaining to losing conditions. This analysis is to be performed where evidence exists of the potential of groundwater impacts due to declines in water levels of monitoring wells screened in the deeper portions of the aquifer (which reflect any impacts due to groundwater pumping at depth). A change in gaining or losing surface water conditions can be quantified by shallow water levels dropping below the measured stage of surface water flow or land surface elevation (in the case of springs, seeps, or wetlands), and remaining below that level even during spring conditions. If drought conditions or other changes in basin hydrology (such as curtailed releases from reservoirs) are deemed to cause the

Appendix A – SGMA Outreach Plan

14th at 5:30PM at the Truckee Donner Public Utility District at 11570 Donner Pass Road. This meeting was attended by GEI Consultants, registered geologist licensed by California, who reviewed the extensive scientific data on the MVGB and certified that it has operated within sustainable yield for at least 25-years.

- **Local SGMA Agencies Public Board/Council Meetings** – The Local SGMA Agencies have had over a dozen agendized public meetings in preparation of the Alternative Submittal. A list of these meetings can be found in Appendix B. Each of the six Local SGMA Agencies will individually take a joint-resolution to their governing agency for approval of the Alternative Submittal along with approving a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) amongst the six Local SGMA Agencies to comply with SGMA with an Alternative Submittal and for on-going regulatory compliance should the submittal be approved by DWR. All of the meetings will be open to the public and promoted per standard Board/Council public meeting protocols.
- **Other Meetings** – The partnership agencies will schedule and attend other meetings on an as needed basis of parties that have an interest in the beneficial uses and users of the groundwater basin to provide an opportunity to educate them on SGMA and submittal of an Alternate Plan. An example of this type of meetings would be the presentation to the Truckee River Basin Working Group – a long-time stakeholder group of California and Nevada interests in the Truckee River Basin - which meets monthly to discuss issues related to the Truckee River Operating Agreement (TROA).
- **General Outreach** – Each of the six SGMA Local Agencies will use their normal communications and outreach protocols to educate their Board/Council, staff, and constituents regarding the requirements of SGMA and the intent to us an Alternative Submittal to comply.

Agency or Group:	Meeting Date:	Description:
Truckee Donner Public Utility District	August 3, 2016	Board meeting Action Item to award GEI Consultants contract
Truckee Donner Public Utility District	November 2, 2016	Board meeting Information Item with update on SGMA
Truckee Donner Public Utility District	December 7, 2016	Board meeting Action Item to approve MOA and Alternative Submittal
Northstar Community Services District	November 16, 2016	Board meeting Action Item to approve MOA and review draft Alternative Submittal
Northstar Community Services District	December 21, 2016	Board meeting Action Item to approve Alternative Submittal
Placer County Water Agency	September 15, 2016	Board meeting Information Item with update on SGMA
Placer County Water Agency	November 17, 2016	Board meeting Action Item to approve MOA and Alternative Submittal
Town of Truckee	October 11, 2016	Council meeting Information Item with update on SGMA
Town of Truckee	December 13, 2016	Council meeting Action Item to approve MOA and Alternative Submittal
Nevada County	August 16, 2016	Board meeting Information Item on SGMA and Letter of Support for Alternative Submittal
Nevada County	November 8, 2016	Board meeting Action Item to approve MOA
Nevada County	December 13, 2016	Board meeting Action Item to approve Alternative Submittal
Placer County	August 9, 2016	Board meeting Information Item with update on SGMA
Placer County	December 6, 2016	Board meeting Action Item to approve MOA and Alternative Submittal
Truckee River Basin Working Group	November 2, 2016	Presentation on SGMA Alternative Submittal to Truckee River Basin stakeholders
General Public Meeting	November 14, 2016	Presentation on SGMA Alternative Submittal to public

Attachment B: Public Meetings on SGMA Alternative Submittal

Appendix C - GEI Seal page

Appendix D – Local SGMA Agencies MOA

each medium- or high-priority basin by a groundwater sustainability agency; OR (2) if a local agency or combination of local agencies believes that an alternative to a GSP satisfies the objectives of SGMA, the local agency may submit the alternative to the Department for evaluation and assessment no later than January 1, 2017, and every five years thereafter.

H. Under SGMA, the California Environmental Quality Act (Public Resources Code Section 21000 *et. seq.*) does not apply to the preparation and adoption of a GSP or an alternative to a GSP. *See* Wat. Code § 10728.6.

I. Under SGMA, an alternative to a GSP is any of the following: 1) an existing groundwater management plan; or 2) management pursuant to an adjudication action; or 3) an analysis of basin conditions that demonstrates that the basin has operated within its sustainable yield over a period of at least 10 years.

J. The Parties are interested in collectively developing and implementing a single alternative to a groundwater sustainability plan to sustainably manage the MVGB pursuant to Water Code section 10733.6.

K. All Parties have concluded that the MVGB is a good candidate for an alternative to a GSP because the Truckee River Operating Agreement and existing Federal law restrict and monitor groundwater use in the region, there is an existing groundwater management plan for the MVGB, and the available data shows that the basin has been operated within its sustainable yield over a period of at least 10 years.

L. All Parties have concluded that the MVGB can be effectively managed under an alternative to a GSP to achieve SGMA's objectives and sustainability goal.

M. Pursuant to SGMA, the Department has adopted regulations for evaluating groundwater sustainability plans and for evaluating alternatives to groundwater sustainability plans ("Regulations"). *See* 23 C.C.R. §§ 350 et seq.

N. The Regulations require that the entity that submits an alternative to a GSP shall demonstrate that the alternative applies to the entire basin and satisfies the requirements for an alternative under Water Code Section 10733.6.

O. The Regulations require that the entity submitting an alternative to a GSP must explain how the elements of the alternative are functionally equivalent to the elements of a groundwater sustainability plan required by Articles 5 and 7 of Subchapter 2 of Chapter 1.5, Division 2 of Title 23 of the California Code of Regulations.

Section 2
Purpose

The primary purposes of this MOA are to (i) establish an agreement between the Parties regarding compliance with SGMA for the MVGB; (ii) develop and submit an Alternative for the MVGB; and (iii) facilitate a cooperative and ongoing working relationship among the Parties to develop and implement an Alternative to sustainably manage the MVGB that complies with the requirements set forth in SGMA. This MOA is intended to provide the management framework for the Alternative and define the roles and obligations of the Parties relative to the development of the Alternative, and if the submitted Alternative is approved by the Department, regarding the implementation of the Alternative.

Section 3
Definitions

The following terms, whether used in the singular or plural, and when used with initial capitalization, shall have the meanings specified herein.

"Administering Manager" is the employee or authorized representative appointed pursuant to Section 6 of this MOA.

"Alternative" is the alternative to a groundwater sustainability plan for the Martis Valley Groundwater Basin that the Parties to this MOA are seeking to develop and have approved by the Department and implement pursuant to Water Code section 10733.6 of SGMA and the applicable Regulations.

"Budget" refers to the budget that has been approved annually by the governing body for each and every Party, for the shared costs of implementation of the Alternative.

"Bulletin 118" means the California Department of Water Resources' report entitled "California's Groundwater: Bulletin 118".

"Confidential Information" includes copyrights, trade secrets, technical information, technology, and any and all other confidential and/or proprietary information provided by one Party to any other Party pursuant to this Memorandum of Agreement, marked or stamped "Confidential Information" on each page of document, relating to, among other items, the research, development, products, processes, business plans, customers, finances, suppliers, and personnel data or related to the business of each Party. Confidential Information shall also include all "non-public personal information" as defined in Title V of the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act (15 U.S. C. Section 6801, et seq.) and the implementing regulations thereunder (collectively, the "GLB Act"), as the same may be amended from time to time. Confidential Information does not include any information: (1) A Party knew before another Party provided it; (2) which has become publicly known through no wrongful act of Party; (3) a Party developed independently, as evidenced by appropriate documentation; or, (4) of which Party becomes aware from any third person not bound by non-disclosure obligations to Party and with the lawful right to disclose such information. Notwithstanding the foregoing, specific information will not be

Section 5

MVGB Management Committee Membership, Meetings and Duties

A. Committee Membership.

1. The Parties hereby establish the Martis Valley Groundwater Basin Management Committee ("Management Committee").
2. Each Party shall appoint a member to the Management Committee. Each Party shall appoint an alternate to serve in the member's capacity when the member is absent or unavailable.
3. Each Management Committee member's compensation, if any, and reimbursement of expenses for their service on the Management Committee, will the responsibility of the appointing Party.
4. Each Management Committee member and alternate shall serve at the pleasure of the appointing Party, and may be removed from the Management Committee by the appointing Party at any time. A Party must notify all other Parties and the Administering Manager in writing if that Party has removed and/or replaced their Management Committee member or alternate.

B. Committee Meetings.

1. The Management Committee will establish a meeting schedule for regular meetings to discuss Alternative implementation activities, the status of the MVGB, and ongoing work progress. All meetings of the Management Committee shall be conducted in compliance with the Ralph M. Brown Act, as applicable. *See* Gov. Code §§ 54950 et seq.
2. At a minimum, the Management Committee shall meet quarterly, at a time and location to be determined by the Management Committee members. The Management Committee members may agree to conduct such meetings by teleconference, at the convenience of the Committee members.
3. At a minimum, the Management Committee will hold at least one meeting annually, that is publicly noticed by each Party, and at which members of the public are provided with an opportunity to provide public comment regarding management of the MVGB.
4. The Management Committee may establish and schedule meetings of subcommittees as they see fit to coordinate development and implementation of the Alternative.
5. Attendance at the Management Committee meetings may be augmented to include staff or consultants to ensure that the appropriate expertise is available.
6. Each Management Committee member will report to the Party that they represent as needed to provide status updates and discuss matters covered in the MOA.

Section 6
Appointment and Actions of the Administering Manager

A. **Appointment of Administering Manager**. The Parties hereby initially appoint the Public Information & Conservation Manager of the Truckee Donner Public Utility District, to be the Administering Manager under this MOA. The Parties may change the Administering Manager from time to time by agreement of a majority of the Parties or by agreement of a majority of the Management Committee members. The Party that employs the Administering Manager may elect, upon at least thirty (30) days' notice to the other Parties, to withdraw the services of the Administering Manager.

B. **Compensation for Administering Manager**. The Party that employs the Administering Manager shall initially be responsible for the compensation, if any, of the Administering Manager. If the Party that employs the Administering Manager determines that the role of Administering Manager is too burdensome on the Party, the Party may elect, upon at least thirty (30) days' notice to the other Parties, to withdraw the services of the Administering Manager, or to request that the time of the Administering Manager for services under this MOA is included in the costs for administration of the Alternative within the approved Budget, and is equally shared by all of the Parties. Upon such notice, the Parties or the Management Committee may appoint a new Administering Manager employed by another Party. If no Party agrees to provide the services of an Administering Manager at the Party's own cost, then the costs for the Administering Manager's time in administration of the Alternative will be shared equally by all of the Parties, within the approved Budget.

C. **Actions**. The Administering Manager shall have the authority to take the following actions to the extent they are consistent with the approved Budget, the terms of this MOA, and the adopted Alternative:

1. To serve as the point of contact with the Department regarding the Alternative;
2. To submit the approved Alternative to the Department;
3. To submit annual reports regarding implementation of the Alternative and the status of the MVGB to the Department, to the extent required by law;
4. To submit a periodic assessment and re-submit the Alternative to the Department at least every five (5) years, to the extent required by law;
5. To determine and pay the costs incurred under this MOA consistent with the terms of this MOA and the approved Budget and to either: (1) receive and deposit funds into a designated Alterative Plan account, separate of the general fund; or (2) to pay for costs up-front and seek reimbursement from the other Parties for such costs paid by the employing Party of Administering Manager;
6. To make and enter into contracts reasonably necessary to carry out the purpose of this MOA, consistent with the MOA, the approved Budget, and the Alternative.

7. The Parties will provide support to the Alternative by contributing staff time, information, and facilities within available resources at the sole financial responsibility of each Party, except as otherwise provided for under this MOA.
8. The Parties will be equally responsible for the shared costs and expenses incurred consistent with the approved Budget, the terms of this MOA, and the adopted Alternative, and pay the invoices for such costs and expenses to the Party who employs the Administering Manager within sixty (60) days of receipt of each such invoice.

B. **Information to the Management Committee Regarding Actions Related to the MVGB**. Each Party will strive to provide the Management Committee with information regarding activities or plans of the Party, or within the Party's jurisdiction, that relate to or may affect management of the MVGB, the Alternative, or implementation of this MOA.

C. **Annual Reports**. Each Party will provide relevant data and information, available to the Party and requested by the Management Committee or the Administering Manager, for preparation of any necessary annual report to the Department regarding the MVGB.

D. **Periodic Evaluation and Re-Submittal of Alternative**. Each Party will provide relevant data **and** information, available to the Party and requested by the Management Committee or the Administering Manager, for preparation of any necessary periodic evaluation and re-submittal of the Alternative to the Department.

E. **Ongoing Cooperation**. The Parties acknowledge that activities under this MOA will require the frequent interaction between them in order to explore opportunities and resolve issues that arise. The Parties shall work cooperatively and in good faith. The goal of the Parties shall be to preserve flexibility with respect to the implementation of the Alternative in order to maximize the mutual benefits of that Alternative to the Parties.

F. **Interagency Communication**. To provide for consistent and effective communication between Parties, each Party agrees to designate their Management Committee member as their central point of contact on matters relating to this MOA. Additional representatives may be appointed to serve as point of contact on specific actions or issues.

C. **Potential Costs to Address Identified Deficiencies with the Alternative.** The Parties acknowledge that the Department may determine that the Alternative is incomplete and that there may be additional costs associated with addressing any deficiencies identified by the Department. The Parties agree that if the Department identifies deficiencies with the Alternative, the Management Committee will be responsible for developing a cost estimate for addressing the identified deficiencies. The Parties agree that if the cost estimate for addressing the identified deficiencies is less than $30,000, then the Parties agree to be equally responsible for the costs to address the deficiencies identified by the Department. The Parties agree that if the cost estimate to address identified deficiencies exceeds $30,000, then the Management Committee will be responsible for developing a recommendation regarding how to proceed with compliance with the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act and each Party's Governing Body will have the opportunity to make a decision regarding how to proceed with SGMA compliance.

D. **Budgets and Cost Sharing for Alternative Implementation.**

1. Cost Sharing for Implementation. The Parties acknowledge that there will be costs associated with implementation of the Alternative that should be shared by the Parties. These costs include but are not limited to, costs incurred in hiring outside consultants or attorneys related to preparation of annual reports and periodic assessments for the Alternative. The Parties agree that for these shared implementation costs, each Party will be equally responsible for the shared implementation costs, consistent with the approved Budget.

2. Budget for January 1, 2017 – June 30, 2018 Period. The total Budget for shared implementation costs for the period following submittal of the Alternative to the Department by January 1, 2017 through the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2018 (Fiscal Year 2017) is $30,000.00. Each of the six Parties agrees to contribute $5,000.00 for Fiscal Year 2017 within sixty (60) days following receipt of invoice from the Administering Manager. The Budget for Fiscal Year 2017 is intended to cover any shared implementation costs, including but not limited to consultant or legal costs, associated with preparation of the annual implementation report submitted to DWR, if required.

3. Future Budgets. At least ninety (90) days prior to the commencement of each Fiscal Year, the Management Committee in coordination with the Administering Manager, shall prepare a proposed annual budget for shared implementation of the Alternative, including retention of all necessary consultants, annual reporting, and periodic assessments of the Alternative. The Parties agree that once this proposed budget is completed, each Party may need to return to its respective Governing Body for funding authorization. The Parties agree to do so within sixty (60) days of receipt of the proposed budget. After adoption of the Budget by each and every Party's governing body, the Administering Manager will be authorized to make expenditures on behalf of the Parties consistent with the approved Budget.

If notice is given to the Truckee Donner Public Utility District, it shall be given at the following address:

Truckee Donner Public Utility District
Attn: General Manager
11570 Donner Pass Road
Truckee, CA 96161

If notice is given to the Placer County Water Agency, it shall be given at the following address:

Placer County Water Agency
Attn: General Manager
PO Box 6570
Auburn, CA 95604

If notice is given to the Northstar Community Services District, it shall be given at the following address:

Northstar Community Services District
Attn: General Manager
900 Northstar Drive
Truckee, CA 96161

If notice or payment is given to the Administering Manger, it shall be given at the following address:

Truckee Donner Public Utility District
Attn: Public Information & Conservation Manager
11570 Donner Pass Road
Truckee, CA 96161

Section 12
Confidentiality

The Parties hereto acknowledge that information obtained about the other Parties pursuant to this MOA may include information that the providing Party deems to be confidential and proprietary information (hereinafter the "Confidential Information"). If a Party provides information that the Party has labeled as "Confidential Information," then each Party agrees not to use the Confidential Information except in accordance with the terms of this MOA, and not to disclose the Confidential Information to any third parties without the prior

Section 15
General Provisions

A. Termination.

1. This MOA may be terminated upon unanimous written consent of all the Parties. No Party or its Governing Body may unilaterally terminate this MOA.
2. This MOA is terminated if: (a) the Department determines that the Alternative is incomplete and the Parties decide not to submit a new or revised Alternative to the Department for approval, consistent with Sections 9.B and 10.C, above; OR (b) the Department determines that the Alternative is inadequate and the Department disapproves the Alternative; OR (c) if, pursuant to law, the MVGB is no longer required to be subject to either an alternative to a GSP or a GSP.
3. If this MOA is terminated, each Party shall remain obligated to pay its share of expenses and obligations as outlined in the approved Budget, incurred or accrued up to the date the MOA is terminated.

B. Withdrawal.

1. A Party may unilaterally withdraw from this MOA without causing or requiring termination of the MOA, effective upon thirty (30) days written notice to the remaining Parties' designated addresses as listed in Section 11. A Party that has withdrawn from this MOA shall remain obligated to pay its share of expenses and obligations as outlined in the approved Budget and incurred or accrued up to the date the Party provided notice of withdrawal.
2. Before providing notice of withdrawal from this MOA, each Party agrees to bring any disputes related to this MOA to the Management Committee in writing. If the Management Committee is unable to resolve the dispute, each Party agrees to participate in mediation prior to providing notice of withdrawal from this MOA.

C. Amendment. This MOA may be amended only by a subsequent writing, approved and signed by all Parties. Approval from a Party is valid only after the Party's Governing Body approves the amendment at a public meeting.

D. Assignment. No rights and obligations of any of the Parties under this MOA may be assigned or delegated without the express prior written consent of all the other Parties and any attempt to assign or delegate such rights or obligations without such consent shall be null and void.

E. Indemnification. No Party, nor any officer or employee of a Party, or the Administering Manager, shall be responsible for any damage or liability occurring by reason of anything done or omitted to be done by another Party or the Administering Manager under or in connection with this MOA. The Parties further agree, pursuant to California Government Code section 895.4, that each Party shall

COUNTY OF NEVADA

DATED: 12-22-16 BY: _____

Title: Chair
Name: Dan Miller

COUNTY OF PLACER

DATED: 12/14/16 BY:

Title:
Name:

CITY OF TRUCKEE

DATED: 12/20/2016 BY: _____

Title: MAYOR
Name: MORGAN GOODWIN

TRUCKEE DONNER PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT

DATED: 12-8-16 BY: M. D. Hoe

Title:
Name:

PLACER COUNTY WATER AGENCY

By: Robert Dugan,
Chair, Board of Directors
Placer County Water Agency

12-5-2016
Date

ATTEST:

By: Cheri Sprunck,
Clerk, Board of Directors
Placer County Water Agency

12-5-2016
Date

NORTHSTAR COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT

DATED: 12/12/16 BY: _____

Title: General Manager
Name: Mike Staudenmayer

Appendix E – Local SGMA Agencies Resolutions for Alternative Submittal