

SVGWD 2022 Actions to Maintain the Discharge at Station 10
December 1, 2022

SVGWD checked the discharge at the Sportsman Access gage, the Ragsdale gage and IDWR's Station 10 gage on a daily basis and sometimes more frequently when rapid changes in discharge were occurring or when the Station 10 gage was approaching 32 cfs. The Sportsman and Ragsdale gage are sometimes challenging because of large shifts at Sportsman and frequently poor data at Ragsdale. The USGS is reportedly trying a new type of gage at Sportsman, but that gage was not in operation in 2022. SVGWD asked IDWR to cost share on an improved gage at Ragsdale, but that request was turned down.

The daily discharge data and any observations or recommendations based on those data were reported to the SVGWD Board and water users daily when diversion adjustments appeared likely. Water users then made diversion adjustments, within priority, to attempt to maintain the required discharge at Station 10.

For the most part the adjustments by water users were successful except when changing weather conditions, particularly heat, reduced the discharge at Station 10 more rapidly than diversion adjustments by the SVGWD water users could reach Station 10. An improved Ragsdale gage would aid in quantifying the amount of diversion adjustment necessary to maintain the target discharge at Station 10.

SVGWD 2022 Groundwater Use Reductions December 1, 2022

The Ground Water Districts (GWDs) will annually report ground water-use reductions, when required, to IDWR by December 1. This year ground water-use reductions were required. Data on volume of ground water-use was coordinated with the Water District 37 (WD37) watermaster and was used to determine ground water-use in 2022. WD37 watermaster provided groundwater pumping volumes by WMIS. However, the data is not final and is still being verified and edited for errors by the WD37 watermaster. The most current data has been used for this summary report. It is expected that there will be further edits and corrections in the WMIS data.

Ground water-use reductions occur if the average of the NRCS and NWRFC forecasted flow volume at Hailey is below 210 KAF. In 2022 the forecasted flow volume was below 210 KAF, requiring the GWDs to take additional management actions in accordance with the recommended forecasted water supply tiers shown in Table 1 of the Management Plan Term Sheet. Using the Table 1 forecasted water supply tiers as a guide, the GWDs implemented additional, incremental groundwater consumptive use reductions through voluntary cuts in ground water pumping. The April 1 combined runoff forecast was between 100-155 KAF, a very dry year, requiring additional ground water consumptive use (GWCU) reduction of 11,260 AF. Voluntary ground water use reductions occurred in the South Valley Ground Water District (SVGWD).

Based on the best available data from WD37 WMIS and SVGWD water users self-reporting the total pumping volume that occurred in the SVGWD ranged between 14,380 AF to 11,000 AF.¹ Based on reductions from historic pumping averages in the SVGWD² and with the required additional GWCU reduction the SVGWD met the overall ground water-use reductions for the year.

SVGWD complied with ground water irrigation Season of Use Limits. Groundwater users did not irrigate before May 1 or after September 15. With allowable exceptions of a September 30 turn-off for specific circumstances, contingent on use being within individual groundwater user's reduction targets³. Examples of specific circumstances may include potato crops, pasture, or landscape nurseries.

¹ It is expected that there will be further edits and corrections in the WMIS data.

² Average of SVGWD Ground Water Diversions from 2015, 2016, 2018, 2019, 2020.

³ Individual GWD water users will have assigned irrigation season pumping targets depending on forecasted water supply and recommended consumptive use reductions. For example, a user assigned a reduced seasonal pumping target of 200 AF who pumped only 175 AF by September 15, may pump up to 25 AF by September 30.