

**ESPA Ground Water Management Area
Management Plan Advisory Committee Meeting
January 10, 2024, 2:00 pm, Video Conference**

Meeting Minutes

Attending by Video: Bill Stoddart, Lynn Carlquist, Stephanie Mickelsen, Mike Telford, Roger Blass, Brent Bowen, Roger Blass, Ellis Gooch, Karen Henderson, Mike Williams, Kresta Davis, Jeff Mansfield, James Cefalo (IDWR), Blake Jordan (IDWR).

Mike McVay, Technical Engineer for IDWR, presented information about water level measurements across the ESPA and storage volume calculations using that data. Water balance is an ineffective method to determining storage changes in the ESPA. The most effective method is to evaluate water level changes in wells across the aquifer. Specific yield estimates are used to calculate the volume of water held in the aquifer substrates. The specific yield is averaged across the entire aquifer.

IDWR conducts routine measurements every spring and mass measurements every five years. The routine well network is made up of hundreds of wells. Measurements occur before the irrigation season to avoid pumping effects on measurement data.

Mike discussed how the data can be smoothed using multi-year tailing averages. He showed that the average water cycle (including wet and dry years) occurs on a 10–12-year interval. If the committee decides to use ground water levels as a metric under the management plan, Mike suggested creating an index of 35+ wells and using fall measurements instead of spring measurements. There was some discussion about whether the volume analysis could be implemented on a regional scale. Mike explained the risks with a regional approach.

Committee members asked if there was a simple way to estimate the number of ground water irrigated acres within each ground water district. James Cefalo agreed to contact the IDWR GIS team to discuss the tools available for such an analysis.

Committee members discussed agenda items for the next meeting and adjourned. The next meeting was set for Monday, January 29, 2024, at 1 pm.