

Santa Margarita Groundwater Agency Sustainable Management Criteria (SMC) Overview and Approach

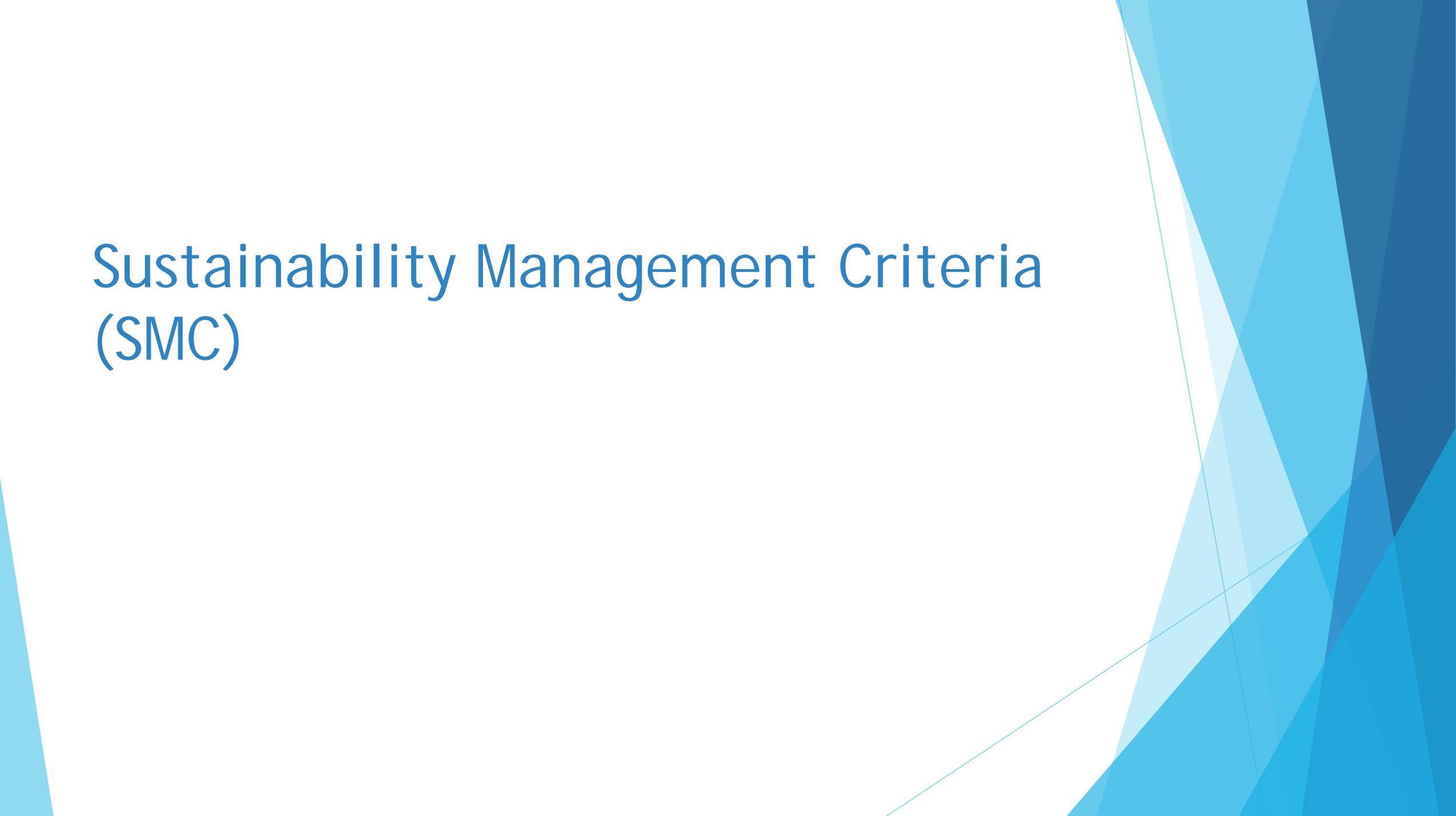
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Objectives

1. Recap what SMC are
2. General process for determining each of the SMC

Sustainability Management Criteria (SMC)

The background features abstract, overlapping geometric shapes in various shades of blue, ranging from light sky blue to deep navy blue. These shapes are primarily located on the right side of the page, creating a modern, dynamic aesthetic.

What are SMC?

▶ Sustainability Goal

descriptive



▶ Undesirable Results

descriptive / numeric

▶ Minimum Threshold

▶ Measurable Objective

▶ Interim Milestones

numeric

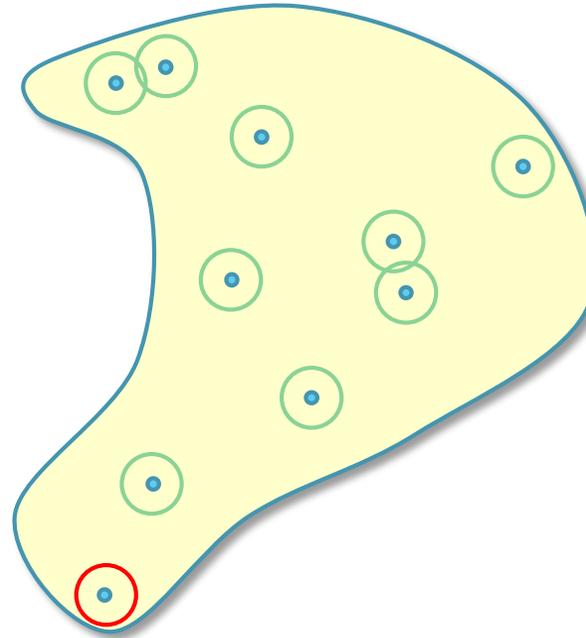
Undesirable Results

Avoiding Undesirable Results is how you prove sustainability

“The description of undesirable results ... shall be based on a quantitative description of the combination of minimum threshold exceedances that cause significant and unreasonable effects in the basin.”

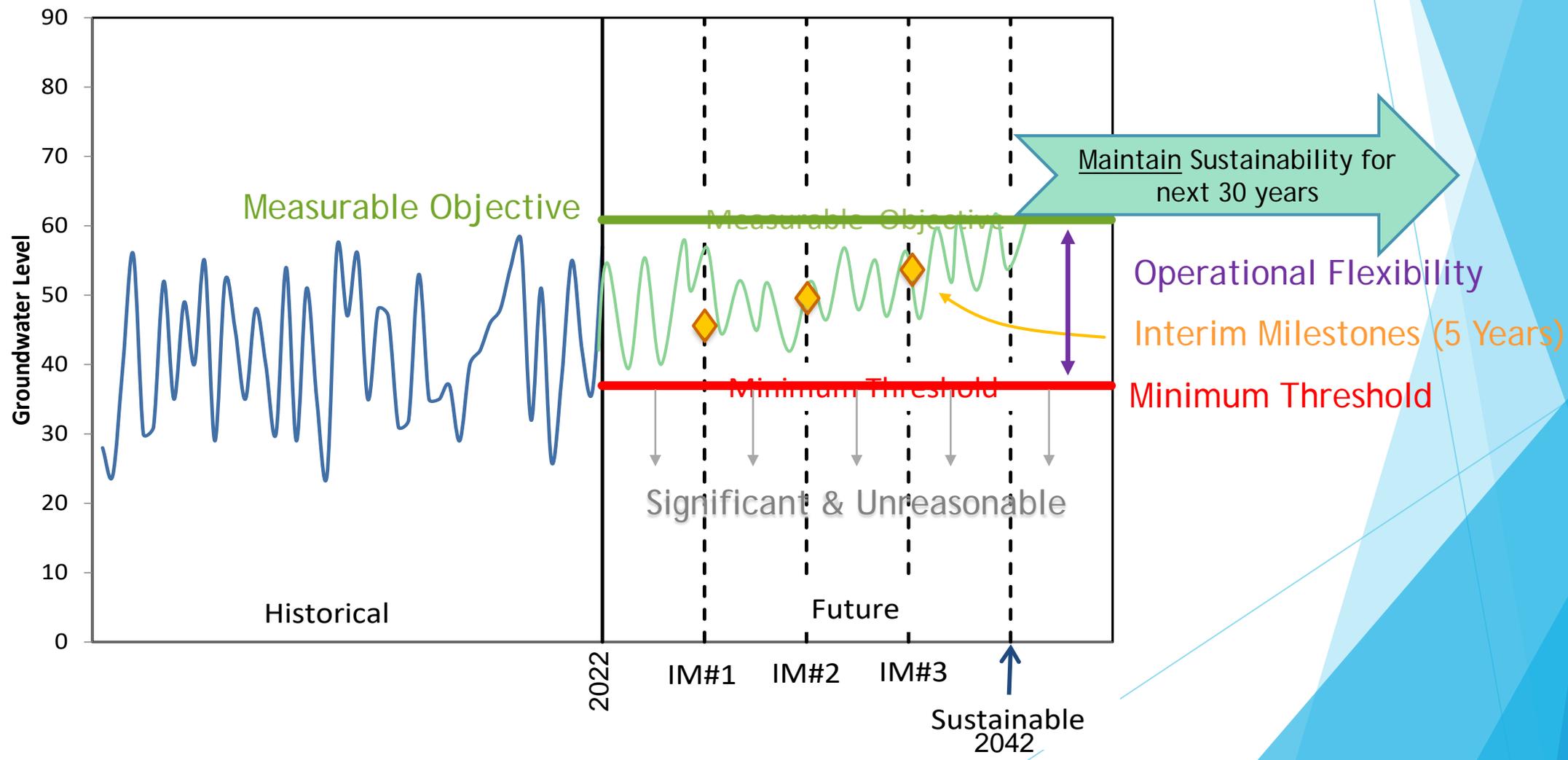
Undesirable Results are a Combination of Minimum Thresholds

Example: An undesirable result occurs when 20% of groundwater elevations, measured at Representative Monitoring Points, drop below their respective Minimum Thresholds



How you define Undesirable Results is
how you can accommodate flexibility

Numeric SMC Concepts



How SMC are Developed

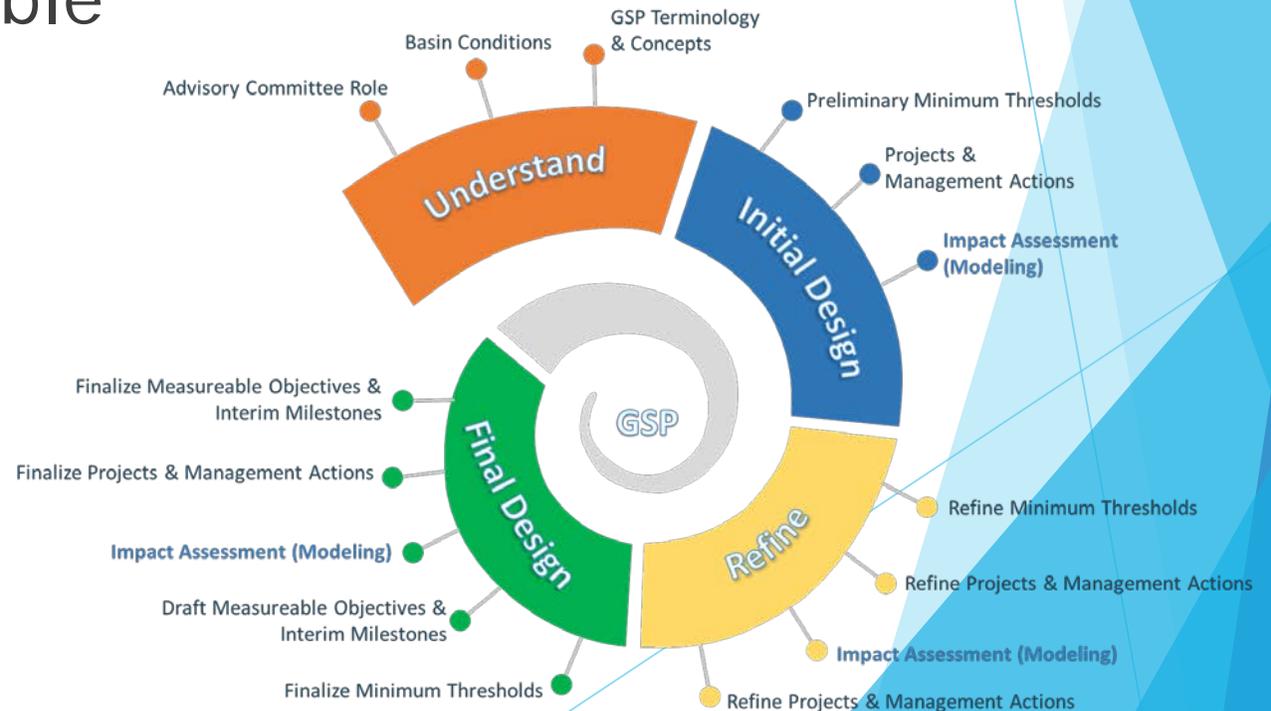
- ✓ Assess which of the six sustainability indicators are applicable
- ▶ Understand the historical groundwater conditions relevant to each indicator



How Will the Board Decide on SMC?

▶ Staff will provide several options as talking points to start the discussion for each of the topics

1. Significant & Unreasonable
2. Minimum Thresholds
3. Undesirable Results
4. Measurable Objectives
5. Interim Milestones



WHAT WE WANT TO AVOID

Significant & Unreasonable

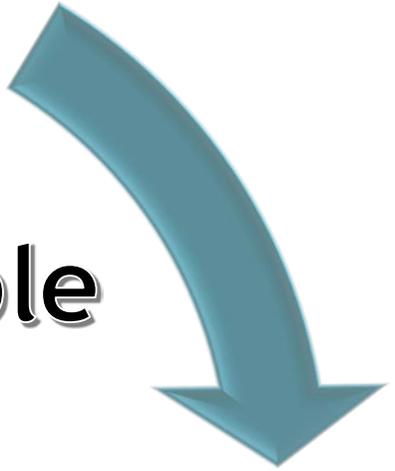
- ▶ Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) must consider and document the conditions at which each applicable sustainability indicator becomes **significant and unreasonable** in their basin, including the reasons for justifying particular thresholds selected
- ▶ Descriptive or qualitative statement that is the basis for Undesirable Results

WHAT WE WANT TO AVOID

Significant &
unreasonable
conditions



**Undesirable
Results**



Beneficial
uses & users

Land use &
property
interests



Example Significant & Unreasonable Statements

- ▶ Groundwater levels lower such that private pumpers cannot meet their typical demand
- ▶ Groundwater quality as a result of GSP implementation degrades to worse than drinking water standards for any constituent of concern
- ▶ Groundwater levels lower such that groundwater dependent ecosystems can no longer be supported

WHAT WE WANT TO AVOID

How SMC are Developed

- ▶ Describe what Undesirable Results would look like based on data measured at Representative Monitoring Points (RMP)

Undesirable Results

Significant & Unreasonable

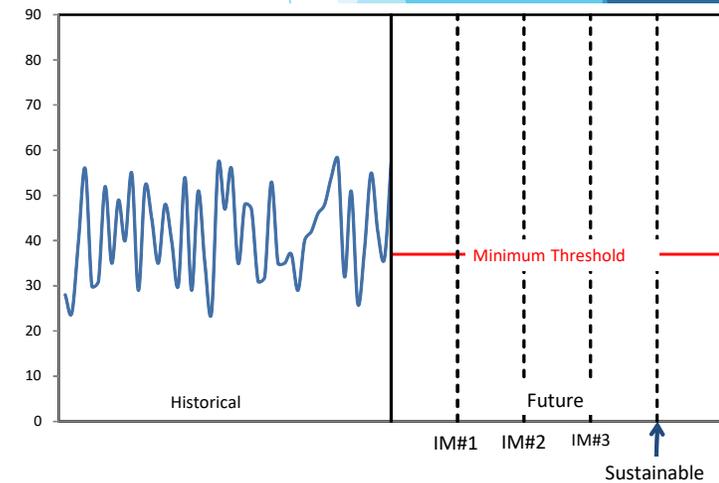
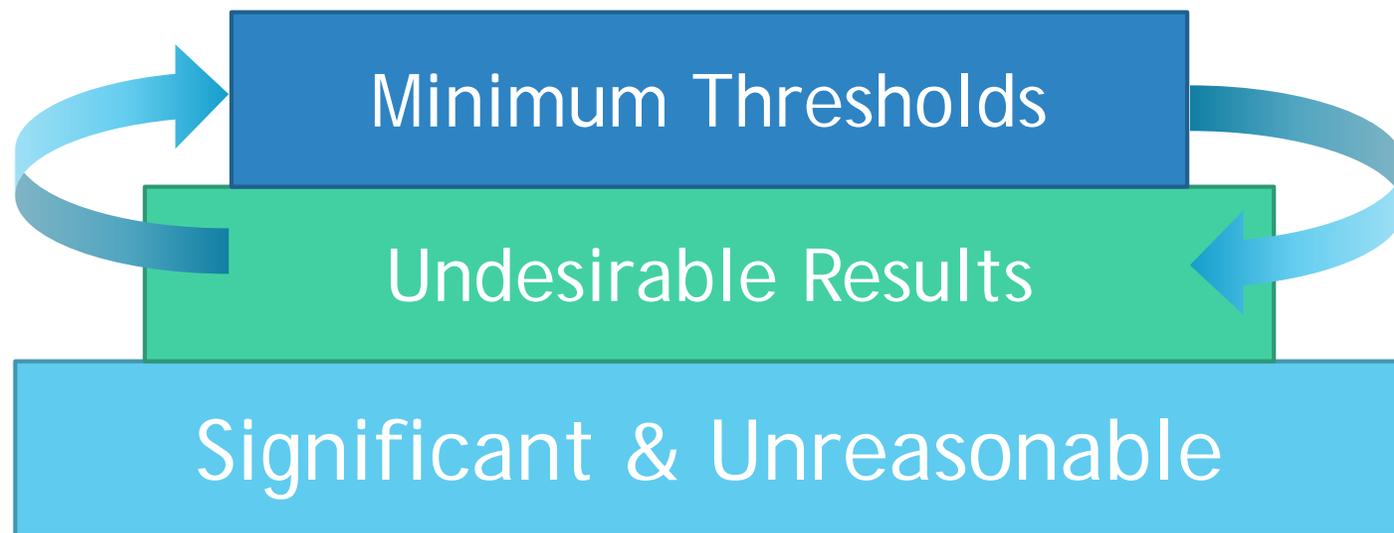
Example Undesirable Results

- ▶ Groundwater levels in $\geq 10\%$ of RMPs fall below their respective Minimum Thresholds
- ▶ Any groundwater quality RMPs quality is worse than Minimum Thresholds for any constituent of concern

WHAT WE WANT TO AVOID

How SMC are Developed

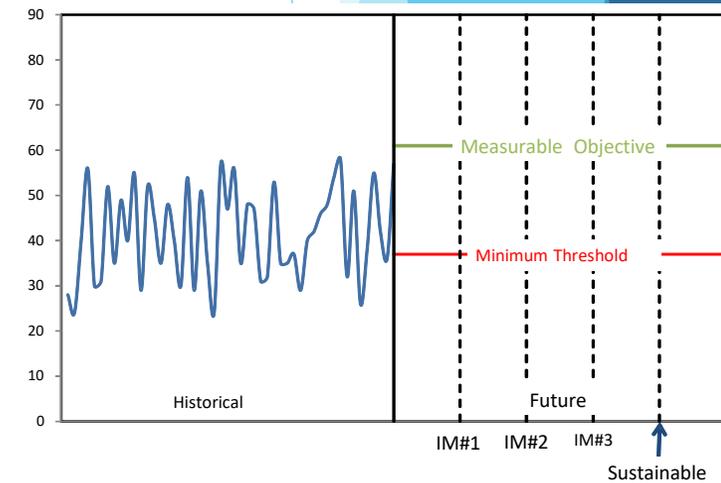
- ▶ Decide on a technical approach for each sustainability indicator to figure out the metrics to use as a measure of Undesirable Results
- ▶ Develop Minimum Thresholds for each RMP



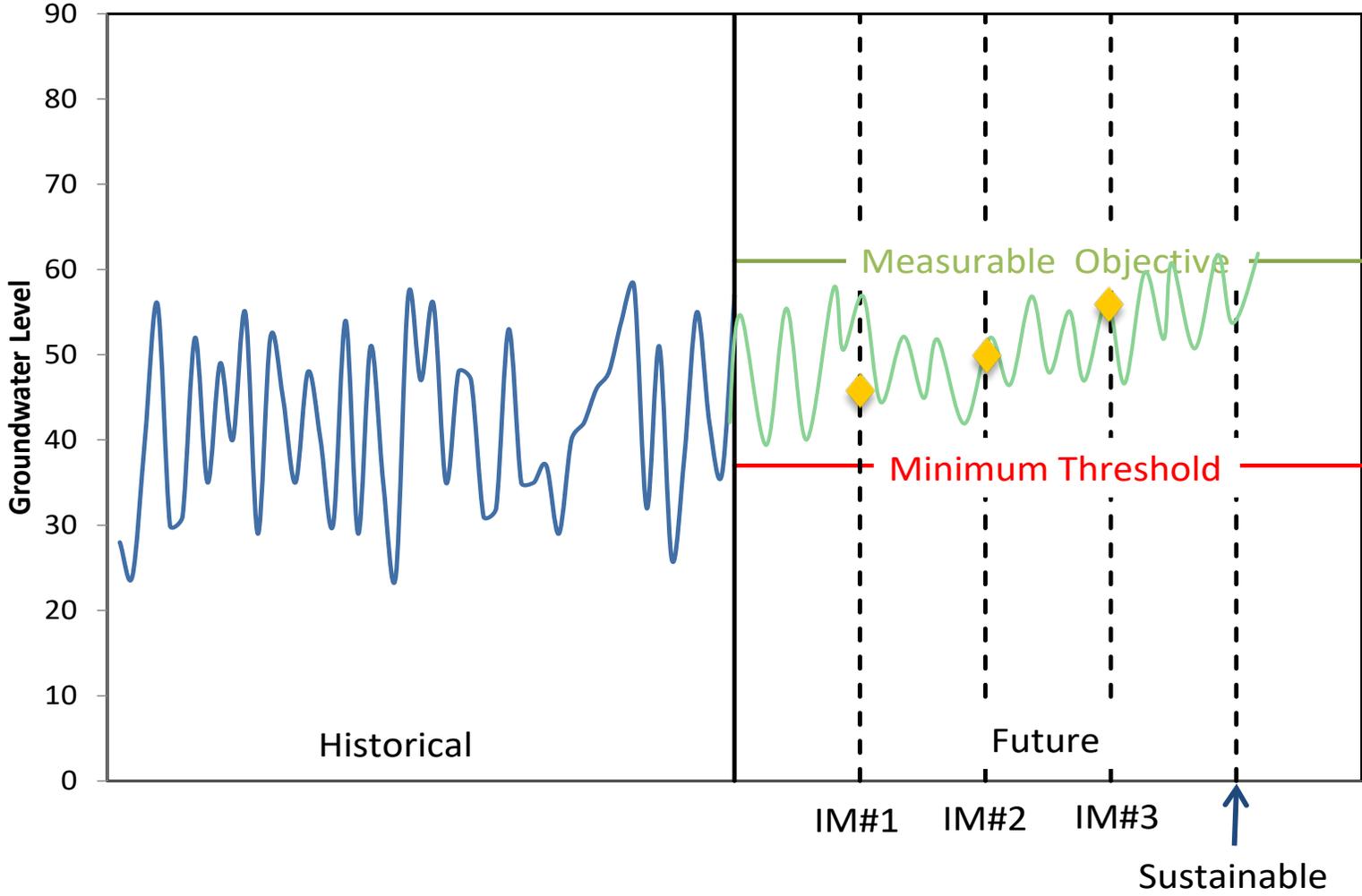
WHERE WE WANT TO BE

How SMC are Developed

- ▶ Measurable Objective is not enforceable but must be achievable
- ▶ Develop Measurable Objective approach
- ▶ Develop Measurable Objectives for each RMP



Interim Milestones

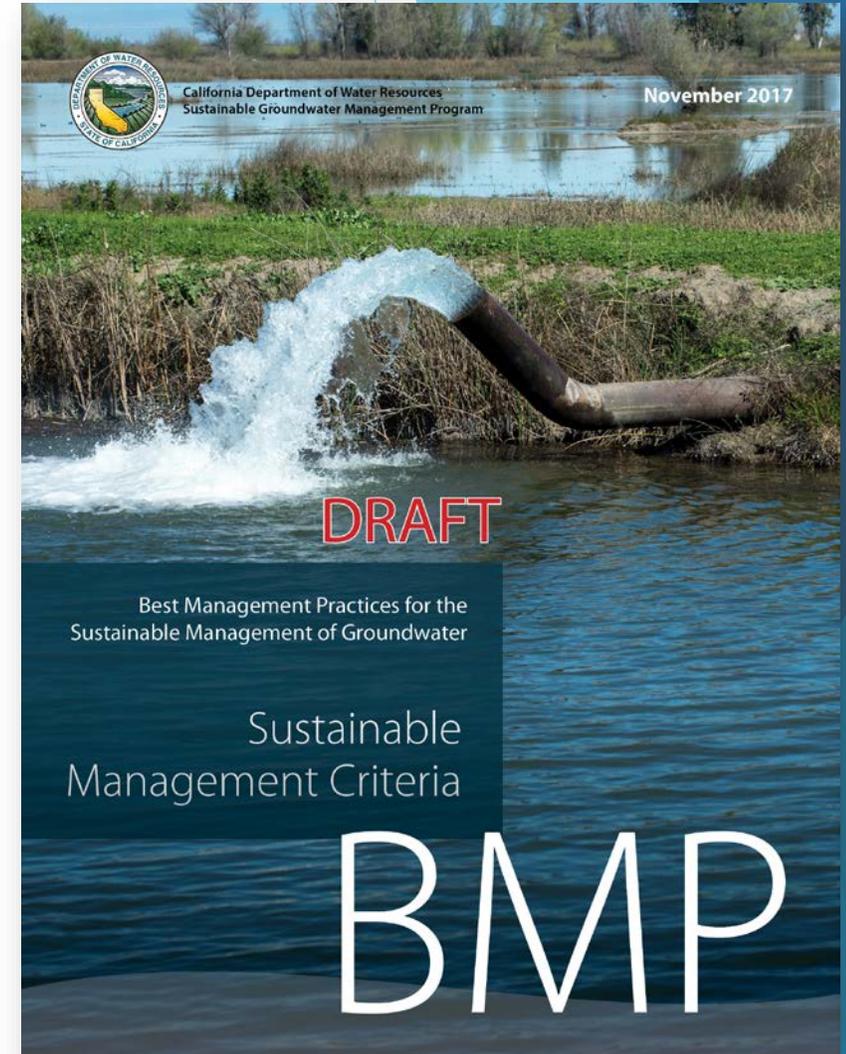


Groundwater Model to Predict 5-Year Interim Milestones

DWR Guidance

- ▶ Draft Best Management Practice document for Sustainable Management Criteria

https://water.ca.gov/LegacyFiles/groundwater/sgm/pdfs/BMP_Sustainable_Management_Criteria_2017-11-06.pdf



Questions