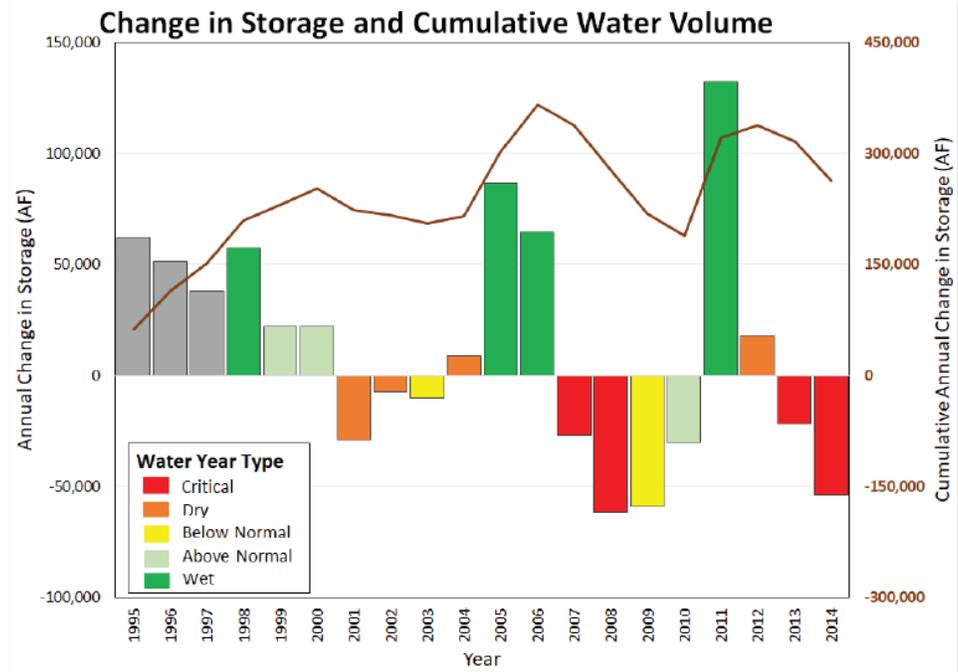


Pioneer Groundwater Sustainability Agency and Groundwater Sustainability Plan Highlights

Water Budget

Water budgets for the Subbasin were developed using C2VSim, a fully integrated surface and groundwater flow model that covers California’s Central Valley. The Kern County C2VSim model incorporates local data from 1984 through 2015. Refinement of the model involved incorporating local recharge and recovery data associated with groundwater banking operations, revising agricultural and urban water demands, and updating the model with land use data for the years from 1991 to 1997.

As a water bank, the Pioneer Project (Pioneer) has kept meticulous records of its imports and transfers of water over time. Pioneer’s checkbook



water budget is shown in the chart to the right. The chart shows that Pioneer has increased its water in storage over the 1995 to 2014 period. This checkbook of volumes was provided for use during calibration of the Kern County C2VSim model.

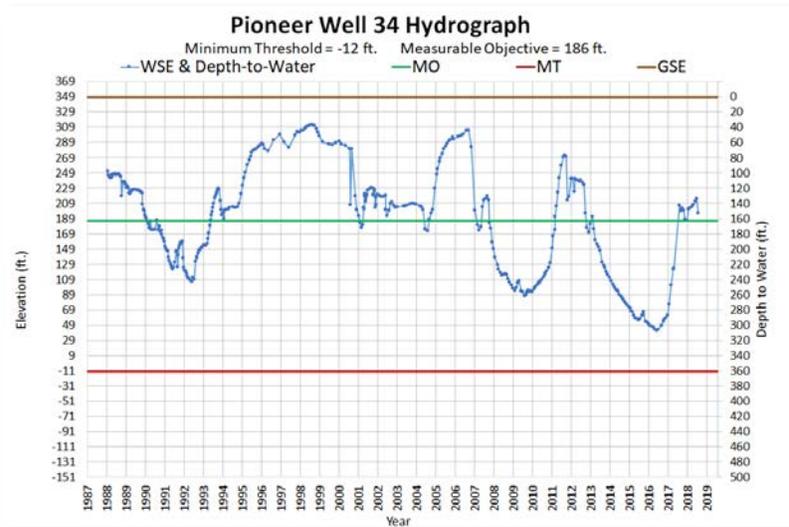
Sustainability

Per Pioneer’s groundwater banking practices, the Pioneer stores more water than it pumps; resulting groundwater levels and other conditions indicate that the Pioneer Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) has been sustainably managed, and as documented in the Pioneer Chapter Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) it will be sustainably managed into the future.

Continued proactive, effectively managed groundwater banking practices mean that sustainability should be maintained over the planning horizon, and a glide path is not needed. If, in the unlikely event that future conditions were to impact groundwater levels and trend toward undesirable results under non-sustainable conditions, Pioneer would implement adaptive management strategies described in the Pioneer Chapter GSP.

Thresholds

Minimum thresholds and measurable objectives were set in the GSA Area to allow for an appropriate margin of operational flexibility for transfers of water as regularly conducted during normal operations by the Pioneer and the Kern County Water Agency (KCWA). Through coordination efforts, neighboring GSAs' minimum thresholds and measurable objectives were also taken into consideration.



The minimum threshold was calculated for each representative well by using the difference between the historical maximum and minimum values, calculating 20 percent of that range, and then subtracting the 20 percent value from the historical minimum value. The measurable objective was calculated by averaging all the groundwater level measurements for each well. Because all representative wells are currently above the measurable objective, interim milestones are not necessary.

Representative Well	Minimum Threshold (msl)	Measurable Objective (msl)
34	-12.5	186.3
35	-147.0	156.0
51	-24.8	92.7
54	-24.8	92.7
55	-51.4	111.0

Outreach

Outreach during development of the Pioneer Chapter GSP was conducted on two fronts. The first front was public outreach basin-wide conducted by the Kern Groundwater Authority. Local stakeholders and the public were invited to presentations and workshops. Each GSA was present at these subbasin-wide meetings and the GSAs displayed information posters for review. GSA representatives were also present to respond to questions and provide a means for open communication. The second front was outreach within the Pioneer GSA directly to member agencies of the Pioneer. Outreach to member agencies included presentations at Pioneer Participant meetings and a program of regular communication with member agencies. Additionally, the Umbrella and Chapter GSPs have been available online for public review and comment. All comments will be addressed before final adoption.

Response to Comments

No comments were received about the Pioneer GSP.

Changes from August Public Draft to December Final

The only changes from the Draft Pioneer Chapter GSP to the Final Pioneer Chapter GSP were minor editorial corrections, and the removal of the term “draft” in the footer of the report. No other items were changed.