

# EMA WELL VERIFICATIONS

Draft Policies Options  
February 2023

# DROUGHT EXECUTIVE ORDER N-7-22

- Governor issued **E.O. N-7-22** requiring new evaluations by GSAs and local well permitting entities
- Applies to medium and high priority basins
- For new groundwater wells and alteration of existing wells
- Certain wells exempt

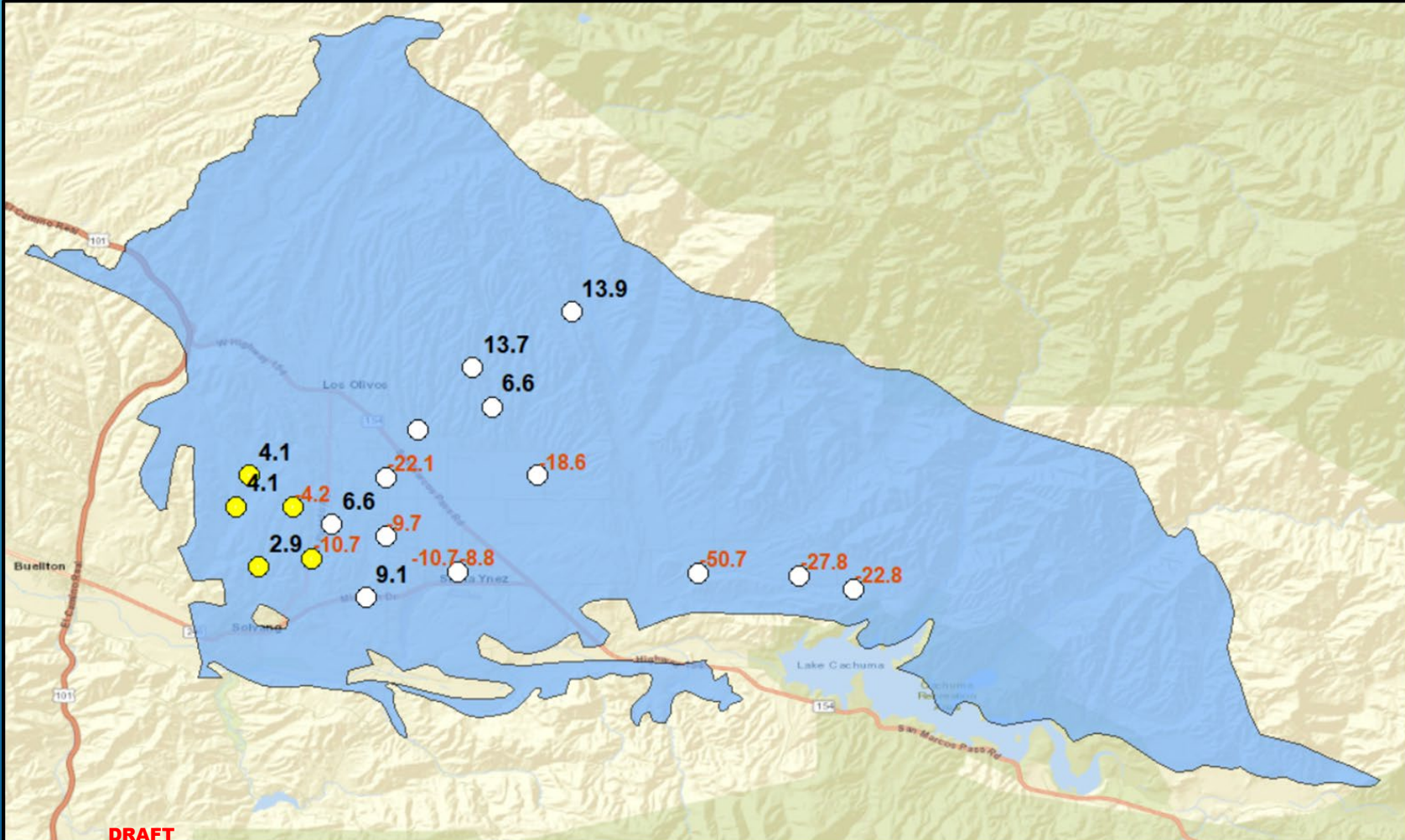
## **Section 9a. Evaluation and Written Verification by GSAs**

- Obtain written verification from the GSA
- Consistency with GSP & sustainability goals

## **Section 9b. Evaluation and Determination by EHS, Prior to Issuing a Well Permit**

- GSA has issued a Written Verification
- EHS reviews interference with existing nearby wells and subsidence

# OVERVIEW OF RECENT OCTOBER 2022 WATER LEVEL MEASUREMENTS (JANUARY 2023 MEETING OF THE EMA GSA)



- 29 of the 34 wells measured in October 2022
- Water levels decrease in ~90% of measured wells
- Spring 2022 – 8 of 20 wells below MT  
-7 Paso Robles, 1 Careaga
- Fall 2022 – 11 of 20 wells below MT  
-9 Paso Robles, 2 Careaga

# DRAFT POLICY OPTIONS FOR NEW WELL VERIFICATIONS BY THE EMA GSA

- Continue to review requests for well verifications until undesirable results occur
- Deny pending verification requests and cease accepting new requests based on imminent occurrence of undesirable results
- Hold all new and pending requests for well verifications in abeyance pending review of March 2023 water levels
- Continue to review requests for well verifications on interim basis based on water-budget parameters and considerations contained in EMA GSP

# OPTION 1: CONTINUE TO REVIEW REQUESTS FOR WELL VERIFICATIONS UNTIL UNDESIRABLE RESULTS OCCUR

- Undesirable results: water levels below minimum thresholds in greater than 50% of representative wells for two consecutive years of average or above average precipitation
- Uncertain when two consecutive average/above average precipitation years will occur, yet water levels may continue to decline and cause impacts

# OPTION 2: DENY PENDING VERIFICATION REQUESTS AND CEASE ACCEPTING NEW REQUESTS BASED ON IMMINENT OCCURRENCE OF UNDESIRABLE RESULTS

- The EMA GSA will cease reviewing and deny any new [and pending] requests for well verifications on the basis that undesirable results are imminent according to trending water level data
- The EMA GSA will resume reviewing new requests for well verifications based on criteria adopted by the GSA Committee

# OPTION 3: HOLD ALL NEW AND PENDING REQUESTS FOR WELL VERIFICATIONS IN ABEYANCE PENDING REVIEW OF MARCH 2023 WATER LEVELS

- Updated water levels scheduled to be collected in March of 2023
- Data will be available to the GSA in April 2023
- Results may inform the GSA on whether to approve new and pending requests for written verifications and/or adopt additional criteria

# OPTION 4: CONTINUE TO REVIEW REQUESTS FOR WELL VERIFICATIONS ON INTERIM BASIS BASED ON WATER-BUDGET PARAMETERS AND CONSIDERATIONS CONTAINED IN EMA GSP

- GSP states annual supply and use vary according to numerous factors, yet sustainable yield and management reflect conditions/considerations of water supply and use over a long-term period
- GSP is based on various assumptions regarding existing and future water budgets (i.e., water use sectors, growth and land use assumptions)
- GSP describes various Projects/Actions for sustainable management that are projected to create water savings in the EMA
- In conjunction with ongoing water level data, long-term management and budget parameters described in the EMA GSP can be used in considering requests for written verifications