



SLO BASIN GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY PLAN

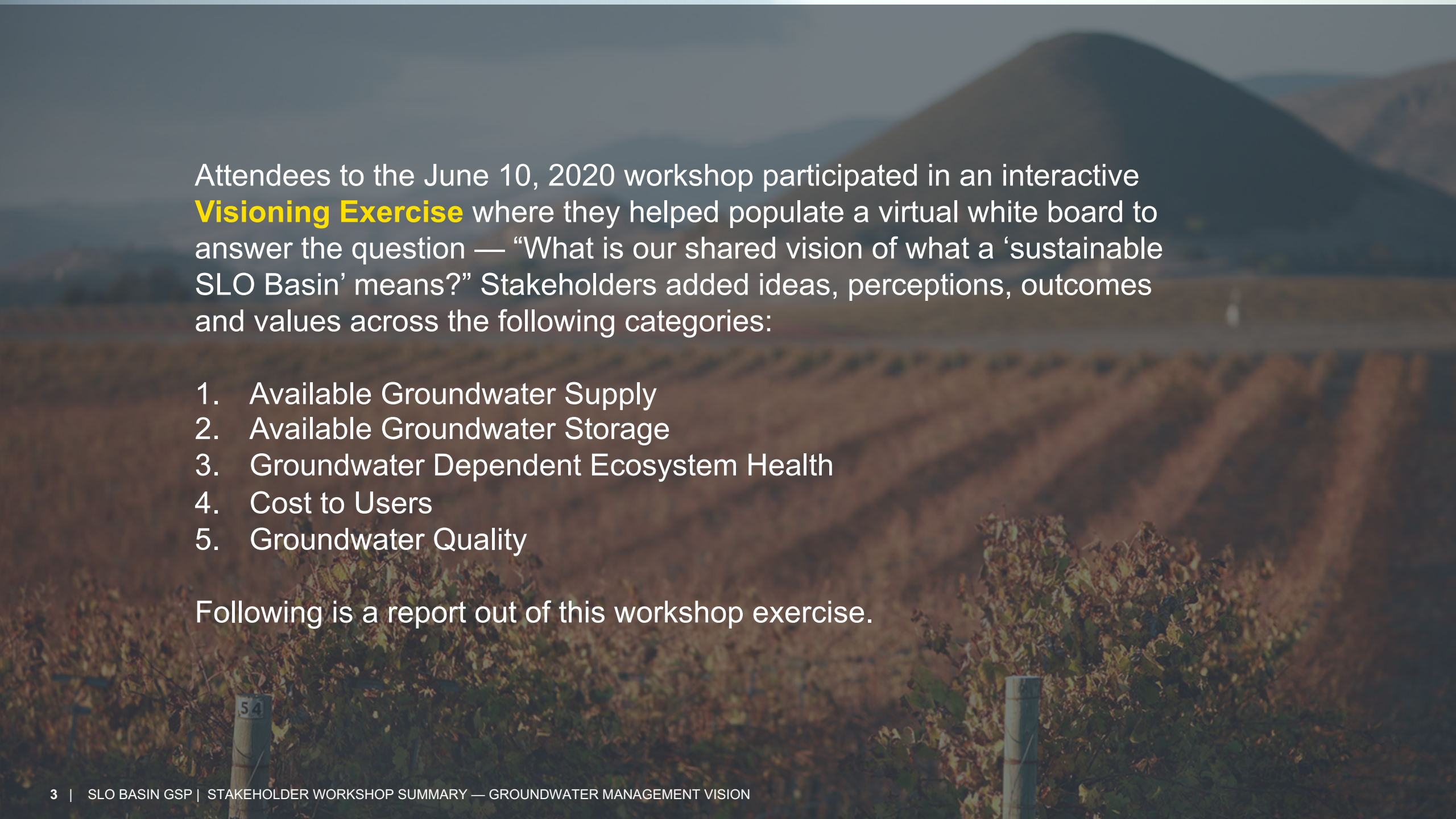
STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOP SUMMARY

BUILDING A SHARED VISION
FOR A “SUSTAINABLE SLO BASIN”

JULY 2020

RECAP—WORKSHOP #2 GOALS: GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT VISION (held June 10, 2020)

- Share what the project team has learned about the Basin
- Describe the role of the Water Budget
- Document **stakeholder's vision** of what a “sustainable SLO Basin” means.



Attendees to the June 10, 2020 workshop participated in an interactive **Visioning Exercise** where they helped populate a virtual white board to answer the question — “What is our shared vision of what a ‘sustainable SLO Basin’ means?” Stakeholders added ideas, perceptions, outcomes and values across the following categories:

1. Available Groundwater Supply
2. Available Groundwater Storage
3. Groundwater Dependent Ecosystem Health
4. Cost to Users
5. Groundwater Quality

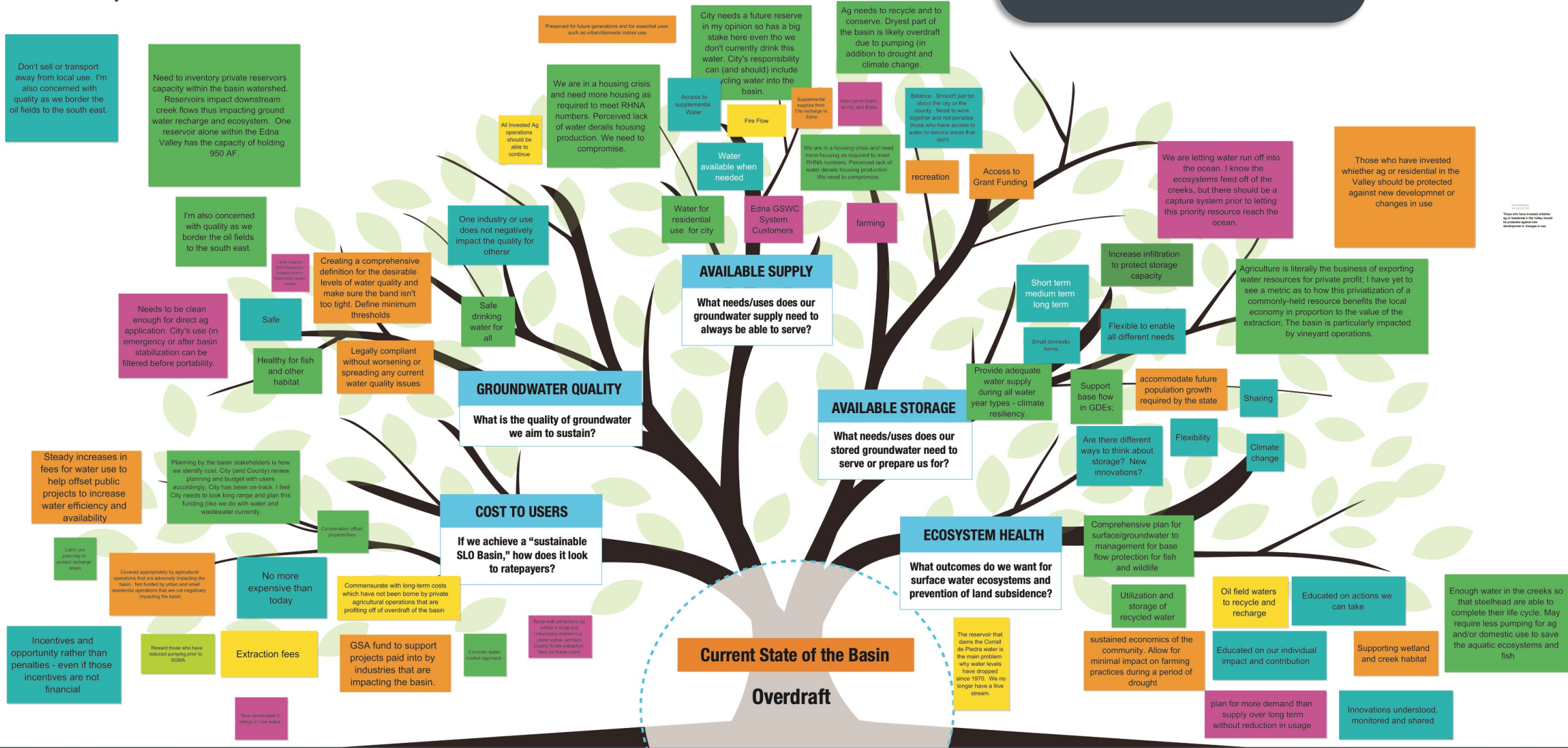
Following is a report out of this workshop exercise.

VISIONING EXERCISE

What does a “Sustainable SLO Basin” mean to you?

ACTIVITY PARTICIPATION AND INPUT FROM STAKEHOLDERS

SECURING SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER in the SLO Basin



VISIONING EXERCISE STAKEHOLDER COMMENTS DETAIL, part 1

COMMENT CATEGORY	ORIGINAL COMMENTS FROM STAKEHOLDERS
MULTIPLE CATEGORY	Don't sell or transport away from local use.
MULTIPLE CATEGORY	Goal of low energy use to align with climate action goals
MULTIPLE CATEGORY	Need to inventory private reservoir capacity within the basin watershed. Reservoirs impact downstream creek flows thus impacting groundwater recharge and ecosystem. One reservoir alone within the Edna Valley has the capacity of holding 950 AF.
AVAILABLE SUPPLY	Those who have invested whether ag or residential in the Valley should be protected against new development or changes in use
AVAILABLE SUPPLY	Access to supplemental Water
AVAILABLE SUPPLY	Fire Flow
AVAILABLE SUPPLY	City needs a future reserve in my opinion so has a big stake here even though we don't currently drink this water.
AVAILABLE SUPPLY	City's responsibility can (and should) include recycling water into the basin.
AVAILABLE SUPPLY	Supplemental supplies from City recharge to Edna
AVAILABLE SUPPLY	We are in a housing crisis and need more housing as required to meet RHNA numbers. Perceived lack of water derails housing production. We need to compromise.
AVAILABLE SUPPLY	Interconnections to city and Edna
AVAILABLE SUPPLY	Water available when needed
AVAILABLE SUPPLY	Water for residential use for city
AVAILABLE SUPPLY	Edna GSWC System Customers
AVAILABLE SUPPLY	Farming
AVAILABLE SUPPLY	Balance. Shouldn't just be about the city or the county. Need to work together and not penalize those who have access to water to service areas that don't
AVAILABLE SUPPLY	Recreation
AVAILABLE SUPPLY	Access to Grant Funding
AVAILABLE SUPPLY	All Invested Ag operations should be able to continue
AVAILABLE SUPPLY	We are letting water run off into the ocean. I know the ecosystems feed off of the creeks, but there should be a capture system prior to letting this priority resource reach the ocean.
AVAILABLE SUPPLY	Those who have invested whether agriculture or residential in the Valley should be protected against new development or changes in use

VISIONING EXERCISE STAKEHOLDER COMMENTS DETAIL, part 2

CATEGORY / KEY QUESTION	ORIGINAL COMMENTS FROM STAKEHOLDERS
AVAILABLE STORAGE	Short term, medium term, long term
AVAILABLE STORAGE	Increase infiltration to protect storage capacity
AVAILABLE STORAGE	Small domestic farms
AVAILABLE STORAGE	Provide adequate water supply during all water year types - climate resiliency.
AVAILABLE STORAGE	Support base flow in groundwater dependent ecosystems
AVAILABLE STORAGE	Accommodate future population growth required by the state
AVAILABLE STORAGE	Agriculture is literally the business of exporting water resources for private profit; I have yet to see a metric as to how this privatization of a commonly-held resource benefits the local economy in proportion to the value of the extraction; The basin is particularly impacted by vineyard operations.
AVAILABLE STORAGE	Sharing
AVAILABLE STORAGE	Are there different ways to think about storage? New innovations?
AVAILABLE STORAGE	Flexibility
AVAILABLE STORAGE	Climate change
AVAILABLE STORAGE	Utilization and storage of recycled water
AVAILABLE STORAGE	Plan for more demand than supply over long term without reduction in usage
ECOSYSTEM HEALTH	Enough water in the creeks so that steelhead are able to complete their life cycle. May require less pumping for ag and/or domestic use to save the aquatic ecosystems and fish
ECOSYSTEM HEALTH	Comprehensive plan for surface/groundwater to management for base flow protection for fish and wildlife
ECOSYSTEM HEALTH	Utilization and storage of recycled water
ECOSYSTEM HEALTH	Oil field waters to recycle and recharge
ECOSYSTEM HEALTH	sustained economics of the community. Allow for minimal impact on farming practices during a period of drought
ECOSYSTEM HEALTH	Educated on our individual impact and contribution
ECOSYSTEM HEALTH	Supporting wetland and creek habitat
ECOSYSTEM HEALTH	Innovations understood, monitored and shared

VISIONING EXERCISE STAKEHOLDER COMMENTS DETAIL, part 3

CATEGORY / KEY QUESTION	ORIGINAL COMMENTS FROM STAKEHOLDERS
COST TO USERS	Rural well extractions as whole is large but individually deminimus under sgma; perhaps County funds extraction fees for these users
COST TO USERS	Consider water market approach
COST TO USERS	Commensurate with long-term costs which have not been borne by private agricultural operations that are profiting off of overdraft of the basin
COST TO USERS	No more expensive than today
COST TO USERS	Covered appropriately by agricultural operations that are adversely impacting the basin. Not funded by urban and small residential operations that are not negatively impacting the basin.
COST TO USERS	Incentives and opportunity rather than penalties - even if those incentives are not financial
COST TO USERS	Reward those who have reduced pumping prior to SGMA
COST TO USERS	Extraction fees
COST TO USERS	Safe
COST TO USERS	New development brings in new water
COST TO USERS	Consider water market approach
COST TO USERS	Conservation offset projects/fees
COST TO USERS	Steady increases in fees for water use to help offset public projects to increase water efficiency and availability
COST TO USERS	Planning by the basin stakeholders is how we identify cost. City (and County) review planning and budget with users accordingly. City has been on-track. I feel City needs to look long range and plan this funding (like we do with water and wastewater currently.
COST TO USERS	GSA fund to support projects paid into by industries that are impacting the basin.
GROUNDWATER QUALITY	Limit impacts from Selenium (maybe tied to depressed water levels)
GROUNDWATER QUALITY	Land use planning to protect recharge areas
GROUNDWATER QUALITY	Legally compliant without worsening or spreading any current water quality issues
GROUNDWATER QUALITY	Healthy for fish and other habitat
GROUNDWATER QUALITY	Needs to be clean enough for direct ag application. City's use (in emergency or after basin stabilization can be filtered before portability.
GROUNDWATER QUALITY	Creating a comprehensive definition for the desirable levels of water quality and make sure the band isn't too tight. Define minimum thresholds
GROUNDWATER QUALITY	I'm also concerned with quality as we border the oil fields to the south east. Safe drinking water for all
GROUNDWATER QUALITY	All Invested Ag operations should be able to continue
GROUNDWATER QUALITY	One industry or use does not negatively impact the quality for others



We incorporated the input provided by stakeholders into the DRAFT **5 GUIDING PRINCIPLES INFORMING THE SLO BASIN GSP**, described on the pages that follow.

A synthesis of all ideas and suggestions shared by the workshop attendees are listed beneath one or more of these principles.

These GUIDING PRINCIPLES will be used in partnership with the Groundwater Sustainability Agency to develop an overarching **SUSTAINABILITY GOAL** for the Basin.

(DRAFT)

5 GUIDING PRINCIPLES

INFORMING THE SLO BASIN GSP

1

AVAILABLE
GROUNDWATER
SUPPLY SUPPORTS
DIVERSE NEEDS
RELIABLY AND
EQUITABLY.

2

STORED
GROUNDWATER
EQUITABLY
SUPPORTS **WATER
SUPPLY RESILIENCE
AND EVOLVING
NEEDS.**

3

GROUNDWATER
LEVELS SUPPORT
THE **SUSTAINED
HEALTH OF**
GROUNDWATER
DEPENDENT
ECOSYSTEMS.

4

COST OF
MAINTAINING
SUSTAINABLE
GROUNDWATER
LEVELS IS
**EQUITABLY
DISTRIBUTED.**

5

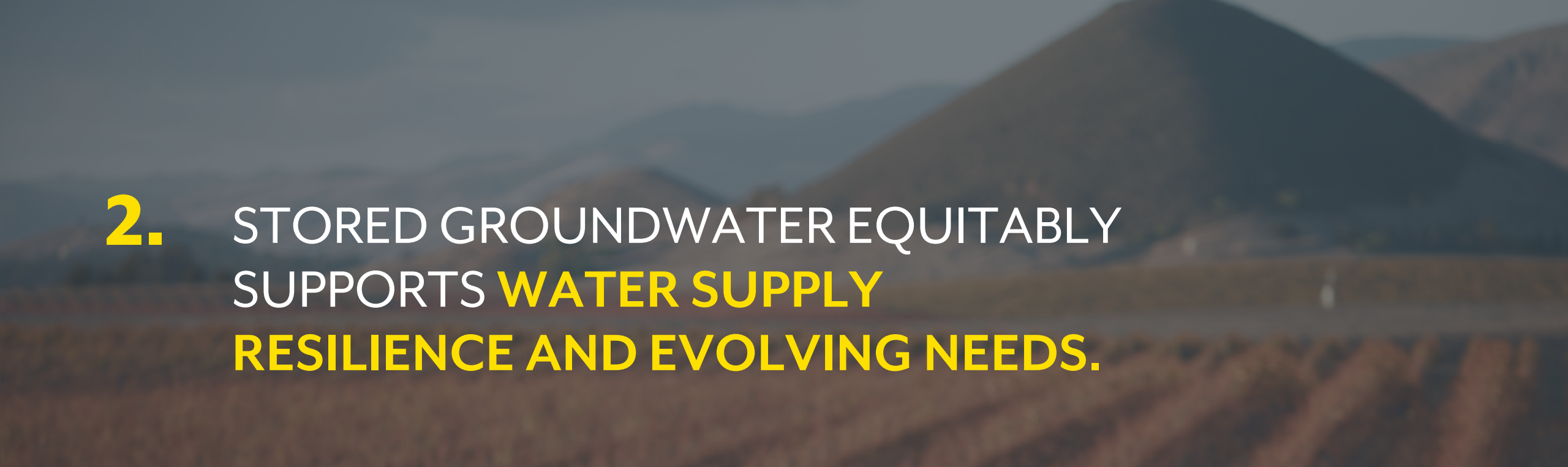
GROUNDWATER
QUALITY IS
MAINTAINED AT A
SAFE STANDARD
TO MEET DIVERSE
BASIN NEEDS.



1. AVAILABLE GROUNDWATER SUPPLY SUPPORTS DIVERSE NEEDS **RELIABLY AND EQUITABLY.**

SUMMARY OF STAKEHOLDER PERCEPTIONS:

- Available when we need it
- Serves range of needs equitably
- Impact of land use or regulatory changes are distributed to groundwater uses/users equitably



2. STORED GROUNDWATER EQUITABLY SUPPORTS **WATER SUPPLY RESILIENCE AND EVOLVING NEEDS.**

SUMMARY OF STAKEHOLDER PERCEPTIONS:

- Stored groundwater should equitably support supply resilience
- Stored groundwater should equitably support growth or changes in land use
- Explore storage innovations
- Leverage recycled water for storage goals
- Prioritize recharge via available supplemental supplies



3. GROUNDWATER LEVELS SUPPORT THE **SUSTAINED HEALTH** OF GROUNDWATER DEPENDENT ECOSYSTEMS.

SUMMARY OF STAKEHOLDER PERCEPTIONS:


- GSP projects and management actions should equitably prioritize the health of groundwater dependent ecosystems
- Leverage recycled water where possible for groundwater recharge
- Explore storage and recharge innovation
- Groundwater users understand relationship between their use and Basin sustainability



4. COST OF MAINTAINING SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER LEVELS IS **EQUITABLY DISTRIBUTED.**

SUMMARY OF STAKEHOLDER PERCEPTIONS:


- Highest users pay highest cost
- Explore creative funding mechanisms to equitably share costs long-term
- Build a “future projects” fund
- Integrate an incentives-based reward system for conservation
- Explore water trading opportunities
- Balance biggest use with economic value of use



5. GROUNDWATER QUALITY IS MAINTAINED AT A **SAFE STANDARD** TO MEET DIVERSE BASIN NEEDS.

SUMMARY OF STAKEHOLDER PERCEPTIONS:

- Safe for fish, habitat
- Safe for direct agriculture use
- Create agreement on minimum threshold for water quality



A draft of the **5 GUIDING PRINCIPLES** was shared with the Groundwater Sustainability Commission (GSC) at their quarterly public meeting on July 8, 2020. Following a brief public comment period, the project team will finalize the 5 PILLARS and work with the GSC to incorporate them into overarching **SUSTAINABILITY GOAL(S)** for the Basin.