



INFORMATION SHEET | **Development of SGMA guidance for depletions of interconnected surface water**

FEBRUARY 2024*

Introduction This information sheet provides an overview of the Department of Water Resources' plans to release a set of the papers discussing the technical aspects of interconnected surface water (ISW) and guidance for complying with Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) Regulations for the depletions of ISW as part of the implementation of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). The documents will be rolled out in two phases to support Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) during upcoming periodic evaluations and updates to GSPs. The first phase includes three Papers discussing the technical aspects of ISW and quantification of depletions of ISW due to pumping. The second phase will include Guidance on the considerations and approaches for managing depletions of interconnected surface water through sustainable management criteria.

Paper 1 | Depletions of ISW: An introduction

This paper will define what ISW is and how ISW is identified. It will also define what depletions of ISW are, discuss some of the basic concepts of depletions, and discuss considerations important when thinking about the management of depletions.

Paper 2 | Approaches for estimating depletions of ISW

This paper will present a general process for estimating the location, timing, and quantity of depletions of ISW. While the process described may be presented using numerical models as the implied tool, details will be provided for analytical models that may be used. There will also be a discussion on the types of data that may be needed to support the models and assessments.

Paper 3 | Examples for estimating depletions of ISW

This paper will provide examples for a variety of hypothetical situations with a range of realistic complexities that can be used to estimate flow between stream and aquifer systems within the basin, including the location, quantity, and timing of the depletion of ISW due to groundwater pumping. Numerical models will be used in the examples.

Guidance | Managing for depletions of ISW

The GSP Regulations require GSAs to quantify and manage depletions of ISW. This document will provide guidance for GSAs to consider when establishing ISW sustainable management criteria for their groundwater basin.

*To download documents that have been released and to see the most current information about project status, visit DWR's SGMA BMPs and Guidance Documents website [HERE](#).