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**Yolo Subbasin Groundwater Agency
Hungry Hollow Groundwater Working Group
Project and Management Action Prioritization Criteria
*November 10, 2025***

The Yolo Subbasin Groundwater Agency (YSGA) will work with the Hungry Hollow Groundwater Working Group (Working Group) to collaboratively prioritize projects and management actions developed by YSGA based on the implementation options discussed at the June 2025 and September 2025 Hungry Hollow Working Group meetings. The Hungry Hollow Working Group Engagement Strategy provides information about the collaborative process to develop and rank projects and management actions for YSGA Board consideration.

Eligibility Criteria

Projects and management actions must meet the following eligibility criteria:

1. The project or management action is located in Hungry Hollow.
2. The project or management action is consistent with the Yolo Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan (“GSP”), meaning it supports the GSP’s sustainability goals and indicators.¹
3. The proponent of the project or management action has the institutional capacity to implement the project or management action.
4. The proponent can complete the project or management action within three years.
5. The proponent can measure the quantitative and qualitative benefits (e.g. amount of recharge in acre-feet, decreased groundwater use in acre-feet) of the project or management action relative to other projects and management actions.

Prioritization Criteria

1. The project or management action will help achieve and maintain sustainable groundwater levels.
 - a. **High (4):** The project or management action stabilizes or increases groundwater levels
 - b. **Medium (2):** The project or management action slows the decline of groundwater levels.
 - c. **Low (1):** The project or management action does not increase, stabilize or slow the decline of groundwater levels, or no information was provided.

¹ Sustainability indicators are: 1) chronic lowering of groundwater elevations; 2) changes in groundwater storage; 3) groundwater quality; 4) land subsidence; 5) depletion of interconnected surface waters



2. If the project requires ongoing funding, the project or management action proponent has a secure or highly likely, sustainable funding source for ongoing implementation and operation and maintenance. A secure funding source is defined as a contract or other firm commitment to provide resources for a specified time.
 - a. **High (4):** The project or management action has funding or is highly likely to have funding for the life cycle of the project.
 - b. **Medium (2):** The project or management action has partial funding or may have partial funding for the life cycle of the project.
 - c. **Low (1):** The project or management action does not have a secure funding source and is unlikely to have funding for the life cycle of the project.
3. The project or management action is cost-effective on \$/AF basis relative to the life cycle of the project or management action.
 - a. **High (4):** The project or management action has a low cost per acre-foot relative to other projects and management actions.
 - b. **Medium (2):** The project or management action has a moderate cost per acre-foot relative to other projects and management actions.
 - c. **Low (1):** The project or management action has a high cost per acre-foot relative to other projects and management actions.
4. The project or management action provides co-benefits, or indirect benefits of the project, such as, but not limited to, mitigation of the severity of drought impacts on beneficial uses and users, improvements to water supply reliability, stormwater capture, habitat benefits, or improved resiliency of groundwater-dependent ecosystems.
 - a. **High (4):** The project or management action provides three or more co-benefits.
 - b. **Medium (2):** The project or management action provides 1-2 co-benefits.
 - c. **Low (1):** The project or management action provides no co-benefits.
5. The project or management action improves economic benefits to landowners and growers.
 - a. **High (4):** The project or management action improves land values, ability to obtain loans, or grower operations
 - b. **Medium (2):** The project or management action maintains land values, ability to obtain loans, or grower operations
 - c. **Low (1):** The project or management action negatively impacts land values, ability to obtain loans, or grower operations



6. The project or management action will positively impact issues associated with small water systems or private shallow domestic wells and/or helps address the Human Right to Water as defined in California Water Code Section 106.3.²
 - a. **High (4):** The project or management action will provide benefits to small water systems or private shallow domestic wells and helps address the Human Right to Water.
 - b. **Medium (2):** The project or management action provides benefits to small water systems or private shallow domestic wells or helps address the Human Right to Water.
 - c. **Low (1):** The project or management action does not provide benefits to small water systems or private shallow domestic wells or help address the Human Right to Water.
7. The project or management action is not affected by regulatory barriers (e.g. permitting, purchase of water rights).
 - a. **High (4):** The project or management action has limited or minor regulatory barriers to implementation.
 - b. **Medium (2):** The project or management action has moderate regulatory barriers to implementation.
 - c. **Low (1):** The project or management action has many or significant regulatory barriers to implementation.
8. The project or management action provides benefits to areas more heavily reliant on groundwater.
 - a. **High (4):** The project or management action would benefit a heavily groundwater reliant area.
 - b. **Medium (2):** The project or management action would benefit a groundwater reliant area.
 - c. **Low (1):** The project or management action would not benefit groundwater reliant area.
9. The project or management action has strong community support (i.e. low likelihood of opposition) as determined by the YSGA Board of Directors
 - a. **High (4):** Broad community support or minimal opposition is expected.
 - b. **Medium (2):** Some concerns or opposition may arise but are likely to be managed through outreach and conflict resolution.
 - c. **Low (1):** Significant opposition or controversy is likely, or prior efforts have faced significant resistance.

² Section 106.3 states “every human being has the right to safe, clean, affordable, and accessible water adequate for human consumption, cooking, and sanitary purposes.”