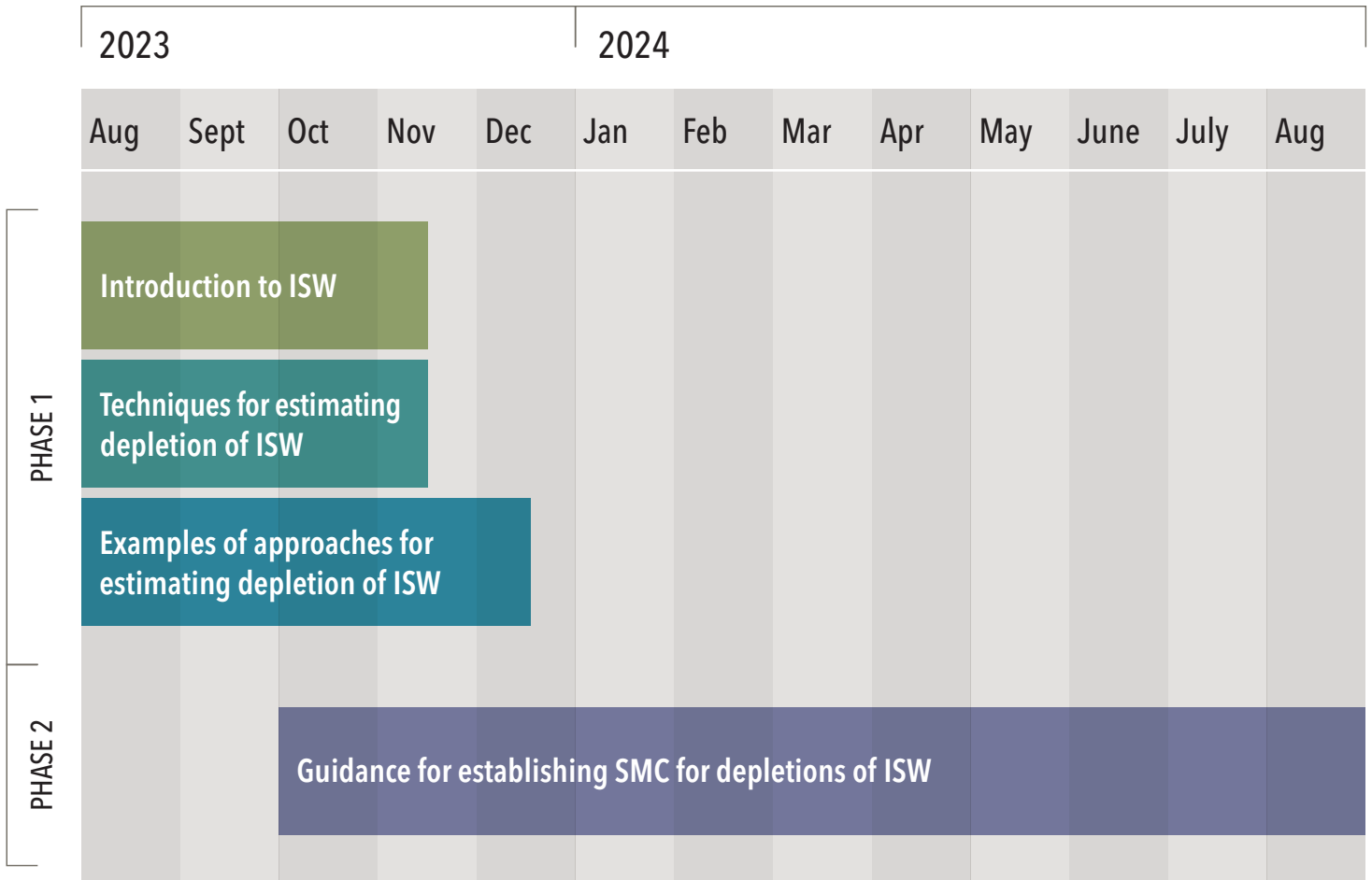




Information Sheet | Development of SGMA Guidance for Depletions of Interconnected Surface Water (ISW)

Introduction

This project summary is intended to provide a general overview of the timing and content of the technical aspects of interconnected surface water (ISW) and guidance for complying with Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) Regulations for the depletions of interconnected surface water (ISW) as part of the implementation of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act. The documents will be rolled out in phases to support implementation of the recommendations for upcoming periodic evaluations and progressing local GSPs. The first phase will include three Topic Papers discussing the quantification of depletions of ISW due to pumping and is expected to be released Fall of 2023. Phase two will focus on the considerations and approaches to establish Sustainable Management Criteria based on local conditions with Draft and Final release expect during Spring and Summer 2024, respectively.



Topic Paper 1: Introduction to ISW

This topic paper will aid in defining the concepts of interconnected surface water, that includes streams, wetlands, and lakes, as it relates to the requirements under SGMA and the GSP Regulations. The topic paper will begin with a discussion on what ISW is and where it occurs and conclude with a discussion on characteristics, occurrence, and relationships to groundwater pumping that may deplete surface water. The paper will also discuss some of the most common misconceptions related to depletion of surface water.

Topic Paper 2: Techniques for estimating depletion of ISW

This topic paper will present the available published methodologies that can be used to develop estimates of the location, timing, and quantity of depletions of ISW. The methods will include a range of solutions from simple analytical solutions to complex numerical models based on published and available information. The paper will also provide sources for available supporting monitoring and conceptualization data.

Topic Paper 3: Examples of approaches for estimating depletion of ISW

This topic paper will provide examples and considerations for a variety of hypothetical situations of varying complexity that can be used to estimate flow between stream and aquifer systems within the basin, including the location, quantity, and timing of depletion of ISW due to groundwater pumping. The examples offered will include those using analytical techniques, as well as those that rely on numerical methods. Typical data and information sources to support the analysis will be discussed and select applications representing various field conditions will be presented.

Guidance for establishing SMC for depletions of ISW

The Groundwater Sustainability Plan Regulations requires Sustainability Agencies to quantify and manage depletions of ISW. This document will provide guidance for Sustainability Agencies to consider when establishing ISW sustainable management criteria for their groundwater basin. The three topic papers described above are being developed to support this guidance document. It is anticipated that this guidance document will be released for public comment prior to finalization.