

# Groundwater Basin Assessment and SGMA Support for a Ranch

## Butte County, CA



EKI completed an assessment of the aquifer storage and recovery (ASR) potential at a 20,000-acre ranch property located in Butte County. The property is supplied by both surface water and groundwater and is largely operated as wetlands habitat and a wildlife refuge.

As part of the groundwater basin assessment, EKI developed a conceptual model of the hydrogeology of the Basin and evaluated the potential to store surface water in the aquifers underlying the property for later extraction and sale. EKI also quantified historical water use at the property and projected the long-term viability of the local groundwater resources under various climatic and land use scenarios. In addition, EKI developed a strategy for the client to comply with the Butte County Groundwater Ordinance, which requires demonstration that selling surface water out of County and using groundwater instead of surface water does not result in negative impacts to the local groundwater basin.

Currently, EKI is providing technical and strategic support for the client with respect to the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) and the evaluation of potential impacts to local groundwater from neighboring groundwater substitution transfers projects. EKI assisted in the formation of management areas as part of the Groundwater Sustainability Plan development and supported the ranch's efforts to file a Groundwater Sustainability Agency formation notice with the Department of Water Resources as part of a Reclamation District.