The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act

DWR’s Sustainable Groundwater Management Program Implementation Progress Report

CSAC Agriculture, Environmental and Natural Resources Policy Committee
November 29, 2016

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CA Department of Water Resources
What is Groundwater and why is it important?

- 38% of total water supply (statewide average)
- 60% during drought years
- Many communities are 100% reliant upon GW
Adverse Impacts
California Water Action Plan

&

Water Balance
# Sustainable Groundwater Management Act of 2014

**Framework**
- Applicability
- Definitions

**Local’s Role**
- Establish GSA
- Powers & Authorities
- Sustainability Plans
- Deadlines

**State’s Role**
- Develop guidance or rules
- Provide Technical and Planning Assistance
- State Evaluation and Assessment
- State Intervention
DWR’s Sustainable Groundwater Management Program

- Provide Statewide Planning Assistance
- Assist State and GSA Alignment and provide Financial Assistance
- Provide Interregional Assistance
- Develop a Framework for Sustainable Groundwater Management
- Provide Statewide Technical Assistance
Applicability

- 515 Groundwater Basins and Subbasins
**SGMA Milestones for Success**

**Groundwater Sustainability Agencies**
- Formation by June 30, 2017
- Only local agencies can be GSAs

**Groundwater Sustainability Plans**
- January 31, 2020 for critically overdrafted basins
- January 31, 2022 for all other high and medium priority basins
- Multiple GSPs in a basin must coordinate

**Groundwater Sustainability**
- 20-year implementation period
- 50-year planning horizon
DWR’s Near Term SGMA Responsibilities/Due Dates

- **Initial Basin Prioritization**: §10723.4
  - Completed by January 31, 2015

- **Regulations for Modifying Groundwater Basin Boundaries**: §10722.2
  - Completed by January 1, 2016

- **Identification of Critically Overdrafted Basins**: §12924
  - Completed January 2016, Updated October 2016

- **Groundwater Sustainability Plan and Alternatives Regulations**: §10733.2
  - Completed May 18, 2016

- **Modifying Groundwater Basin Boundaries (Round 1)**
  - Completed October 11, 2016

- **Water Available for Replenishment**: §10729(c)
  - Due December 31, 2016

- **Best Management Practices**: §10729(d)
  - Due January 1, 2017

- **Bulletin 118**: §12924
  - Interim Update due January 2017;
  - Comprehensive Update due 2020

- **Revised Basin Prioritization**
  - Estimated mid 2017

- **Alternatives Reviews**
  - Begins January 1, 2017

- **Groundwater Sustainability Agency Formation**: §10723
  - Due by June 30, 2017
**Basin Prioritization**

- Requires GW sustainability plans in high- and medium-priority basins
- Adjudicated basin supply information
Basin Boundary Modifications

**Article 3**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scientific</th>
<th>Jurisdictional</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sample Revision</td>
<td>Addition or modification of boundary along barrier to groundwater flow.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Boundary</td>
<td>County Line</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Existing Subbasin B</td>
<td>Existing Subbasin A</td>
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<tr>
<td>Agency B</td>
<td>Agency B</td>
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<tr>
<td>Agency A</td>
<td>Agency C</td>
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</tbody>
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**Internal (Jurisdictional)**

Sample Revision
Move boundary to align with County line.

**Consolidation (Jurisdictional)**

Sample Revision
Consolidate two or more adjacent basins by elimination of internal boundary.

**Subdivision (Jurisdictional)**

Sample Revision
Further divide existing subbasin at request of local agencies.

**County Consolidation (Jurisdictional)**

Sample Revision
Consolidation of all contiguous basins or subbasins within a county into a single basin or subbasin.
Identify Basins Subject to Critical Conditions of Overdraft

Draft Completed July 2015
Public Comments September 1015
Completed January 2016
GSPs and Undesirable Results

Lowering of GW Levels
Reduction of GW Storage
Seawater Intrusion
Water Quality Degradation
Land Subsidence
Depletion of Interconnected Streams
Facilitation Support Service

Assistance to Locals
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Status of GSA Formations

http://water.ca.gov/groundwater/sgm/gsa_map.cfm

Note: Not all GSA areas are shown on map. Updated 11/8/2016.
Tentative Draft Release Schedule (Dates and Documents)

**Best Management Practices (BMPs)**
- BMP 1: Monitoring Protocols, Standards, and Sites
- BMP 2: Monitoring Networks and Identification of Data Gaps
- BMP 3: Hydrogeologic Conceptual Model
- BMP 4: Water Budget
- BMP 5: Modeling

**Guidance Documents**
- Preparation Checklist for GSP Submittal
- GSP Annotated Outline
- Establishing Sustainable Management Criteria
- Engagement with Tribal Governments
- Stakeholder Engagement and Communication
W.A.F.R. Estimates Concept

Instream Flow Requirements

- Existing Instream Flow Requirements
- Other Sources

Diversion Capacity of Project (s)

- Water Rights (eWRIMS)
- Proposed Projects
Roadmaps for Water Available and for Replenishment, by Method

Step by step roadmap with specific examples for:

- Surface Water
- Conservation
- Recycling
- Desalination
- Water Transfers

- In-Lieu
- Active Recharge
Success Factors

• GSA formation

• Data gaps, acquisition and management

• Fact and Fiction – Communication and Outreach

• Support and Assistance

• Overall Implementation and Decisions – Balancing supply and demand
Questions

When properly managed, groundwater resources will help protect communities, farms, and the environment against the impacts of prolonged dry periods and climate change.

California Water Action Plan 2014

State:  http://groundwater.ca.gov

DWR:  http://www.water.ca.gov/groundwater/

SWRCB:  http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/gmp/