SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT ACT OF 2014

BY GENE MANCEBO
Legislative Intent of SGMA

*Water Code Section 10720.1*

- To provide for the **sustainable management** of groundwater basins
- To enhance **local management**
- To **establish minimum management standards**
- To provide local groundwater agencies with **authority** and the necessary **technical and financial assistance**
- To avoid or **minimize subsidence**
- To **improve data collection**
- To **increase groundwater storage**
- To manage groundwater basins through the actions of local governmental agencies while **minimizing state intervention**
**SGMA Milestones for Success**

**Groundwater Sustainability Agencies**
- Formation by June 30, 2017
- 18 GSAs as of August 2015

**Groundwater Sustainability Plans**
- January 31, 2020 for critically overdrafted basins
- January 31, 2022 for all other high and medium priority basins

**Groundwater Sustainability**
- 20-year implementation period
- 50-year planning horizon
Groundwater Sustainability

Undesirable Results:
Significant and unreasonable...

- Lowering of Groundwater Levels
- Reduction of Groundwater Storage
- Seawater Intrusion
- Water Quality Degradation
- Land Subsidence
- Depletions of Surface Water
Why is Groundwater Important?

- 38% of total water supply comes from GW (statewide average)
- Estimated 60% of total supply comes from GW during drought years
- Central Coast is most GW dependent
- Tulare Lake uses the most GW
- Many communities are 100% reliant upon GW
Groundwater Basins & Subbasins

- **SGMA Definition**

- **Groundwater Basin** – An alluvial aquifer or a stacked series of alluvial aquifers with reasonably well-defined boundaries in a lateral direction and having a definable bottom.

- **Groundwater Subbasin** – A subbasin is created by dividing a groundwater basin into smaller units using geologic and hydrologic barriers or institutional boundaries.
Sustainable Groundwater Management Act

- Requires GW sustainability plans in high- and medium-priority basins
- Defines time frame for accomplishing goals

127 High and Medium
96% GW use
88% Population
Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA)

- Requires formation of Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA)
- Requires completion of Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP)
- Requires GSAs to manage groundwater basins through implementation of GSPs
- Provides GSAs with authority to collect fees and conduct enforcement actions
SGMA cont.

- Multiple GSAs and GSPs allowed within a basin with a “Coordination Agreement”
- Coordination with adjoining basin GSA is required
- GSA is formed from one or more local agencies with water supply, water management or land use responsibility
- GSA can be formed under a joint powers agreement or a memorandum of agreement
- Failure to form GSA by June 30, 2017 will result in State intervention
Steps to Forming a GSA

1. Identify basins and their boundaries
2. Identify local agencies and parties of interest
3. Understand the basin conditions and issues
4. Engage parties of interest
5. Discuss assignment of authorities
6. Evaluate and propose governance model
Identify Basins and Their Boundaries

- Basin boundaries defined by State Bulletin 118-03
- “Critically overdrafted” per Bulletin 118-80
- State regulations for adjusting basin boundaries are due January 1, 2016
- Boundary adjustment requests accepted January 1, 2016 – March 31, 2016
Summary of Boundary Issues

• Summary of Boundary Issues – Governance

• Boundaries Not Consistent with Political Jurisdictions

• Multiple Political Jurisdictions (Counties)

• Tribal, Federal, and Adjudicated Areas

• Existing Planning
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>When</th>
<th>Who</th>
<th>What</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 31, 2015</td>
<td>Department of Water Resources (DWR)</td>
<td>Categorize and prioritize basins as high, medium, low, or very low (§ 10722.4(d))</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 1, 2016</td>
<td>DWR</td>
<td>Adopt regulations for basin boundary adjustments and accept adjustment requests from local agencies (§ 10722.2(d)(3))</td>
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<td>April 1, 2016</td>
<td>Local water agencies or water-masters in adjudicated areas</td>
<td>Submit final judgment/order / decree and required report to DWR (report annually thereafter) (§ 10720.8(p))</td>
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<td>June 1, 2016</td>
<td>DWR</td>
<td>Adopt regulations for evaluating adequacy of Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs) and Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) coordination agreements (§ 10733.2)</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 31, 2016</td>
<td>DWR</td>
<td>Publish report estimating water available for groundwater replenishment (§ 10729(c))</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 1, 2017</td>
<td>DWR</td>
<td>Publish groundwater sustainability best management practices (§ 10726(b))</td>
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<td>By June 30, 2017</td>
<td>Local agencies</td>
<td>Establish GSAs (§ 10735.2(a)(1))</td>
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<td>After July 1, 2017</td>
<td>State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB)</td>
<td>Designate basins as probationary where GSAs have not been formed (§ 10735.2(1))</td>
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<td>After July 1, 2017</td>
<td>Groundwater users in probationary basins</td>
<td>File annual groundwater extraction report with SWRCB by December 15 each year (§ 5202)</td>
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<td>January 31, 2020</td>
<td>GSAs in medium- and high-priority basins in critical overdraft</td>
<td>Adopt GSPs and begin managing basins under GSPs (§ 10720.7(a)(1)) or alternative (§ 10733.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>After January 31, 2020</td>
<td>SWRCB</td>
<td>Designate basins as probationary where GSPs have not been adopted in medium- and high-priority basins in critical overdraft (§ 10735.2(1))</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 31, 2022</td>
<td>GSAs in other medium- and high-priority basins</td>
<td>Adopt GSPs and begin managing basins under GSPs (§ 10720.7(a)(2))</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>After January 31, 2022</td>
<td>SWRCB</td>
<td>Designate basins as probationary where GSPs have not been adopted in other medium- and high-priority basins (§ 10735.2(1))</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>After January 31, 2025</td>
<td>SWRCB</td>
<td>Designate basins as probationary where GSPs are inadequate or not being implemented, and extractions result in significant depletions of interconnected surface waters (§ 10735.2(a)(5)(B))</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>After January 31, 2040</td>
<td>GSAs (in medium- and high-priority basins in critical overdraft)</td>
<td>Achieve groundwater sustainability goals (DWR may grant two five-year extensions upon a showing of good cause) (§ 10727.2(3)(A))</td>
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<tr>
<td>After January 31, 2042</td>
<td>GSAC (in other medium and high priority basins)</td>
<td>Achieve groundwater sustainability goals (DWR may grant two five-year extensions upon a showing of good cause) (§ 10727.2(3)(A))</td>
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Prepared by the Association of California Water Agencies [www.acwa.com](http://www.acwa.com)
October 2014
NEXT STEPS

• Coordinate with Amador County, Jackson Valley Irrigation District and other local agencies
• Reach out to City of Galt, San Joaquin County, Sacramento County, and interested parties
• Discuss and recommend GSA either as Amador County organization with coordination agreement or as part of a single large GSA which includes other counties
• Establish GSA by June 30, 2017 and begin work on GSP