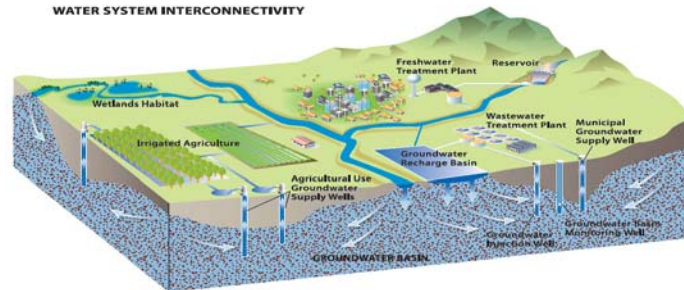


Sustainable Groundwater Management Act



Formation of Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs)

An Opportunity for Improved Groundwater Management Collaboration

5 Stages of Groundwater Management

- **Denial** - deny the reality of the situation...block out the words and hide from the facts...disbelief
- **Anger** – intense emotion...search for someone to blame
- **Bargaining** – need to regain control... “if only we had...” ...seek compromise...renegotiate the terms
- **Depression** – reaction to practical implications relating to the changing situation
- **Acceptance** – "It's going to be okay." "I can't fight it, I may as well prepare for it and be a part of it."

Presentation Overview

- The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA)
- The groundwater management planning process
- New Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs)
- Land use & groundwater management collaboration (GSA's)

“SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT ACT”

- ◆ **SB1168, AB1739, & SB1319** passed by the Legislature and signed by the Governor became effective Jan 1, 2015;
- ◆ **SB13 & AB617** recently enacted;
- ◆ “*Groundwater Sustainability Agencies*” to direct local groundwater management activities at basin or subbasin level;
- ◆ Goal of groundwater sustainability in next 20 years with interim milestones in five year increments;
- ◆ Groundwater sustainability agency (GSA) can be a single local entity or combination of local entities that elects to assume this responsibility.
 - Local exceptions – *Fox Canyon Groundwater Management Agency* (FCGMA) and *Ojai Groundwater Management Agency* are deemed the exclusive local agencies within their respective statutory boundaries to be the GSA unless they elect to not assume the role

SGMA Framework for Sustainability

- Emphasis on local control
- 20 years to achieve sustainability goal
- State intervention only if locals do not act
- Comprehensive State policy initiative including:
 - Water conservation
 - Water recycling
 - Water storage
 - Safe drinking water
 - Wetlands/watershed restoration



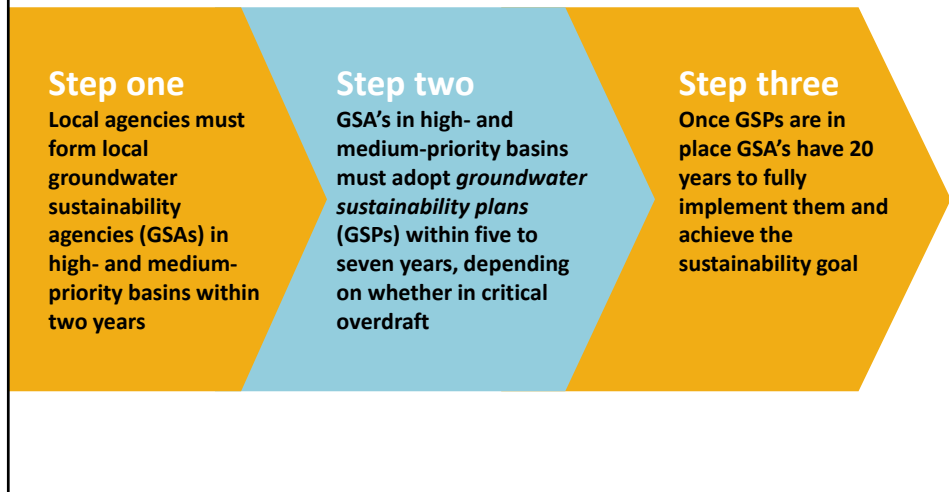
What is Sustainable Groundwater Management?

Now defined in Water Code §10721

Management and use of groundwater in a manner that can be maintained during the planning and implementation horizon without causing undesirable results.

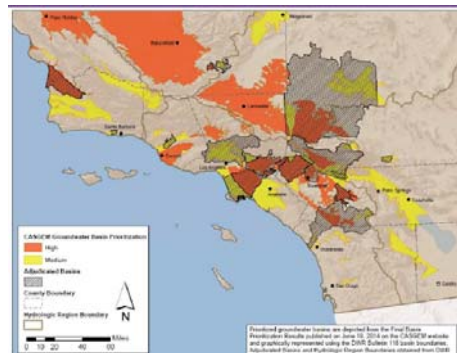
- Chronic lowering of groundwater levels indicating a *significant and unreasonable* depletion of supply
- Reductions in groundwater storage
- Seawater intrusion
- Degraded water quality
- Land subsidence
- Surface water depletions that have adverse impacts on beneficial uses

Steps to Groundwater Sustainability



High-Priority and Medium-Priority Basins

- Priority designated by DWR per CASGEM June 2014 prioritization
- Criteria include population, irrigated agriculture dependent on groundwater, etc.
- 125 of 515 basins are high- or medium-priority basins statewide
- Implementation is elective but encouraged in low-priority basins



SUBBASIN/BASIN	PRIORITY Critical Overdraft *	Comments (CASGEM Prioritization)
Piru / Santa Clara River Valley	High *	GW Quality impacts: nitrates, storm runoff, leaking tanks, etc. (B-118). High Selenium and other inorganics, average TDS was 1450 mg/l (Ventura co 2011 annual gw report)
Fillmore / Santa Clara River Valley	Medium *	Many groundwater quality impairments in the basin; Nitrates problematic during dry periods; High TDS, etc. (B-118). REH - PubComm indicted WQ is localized and being managed
Santa Paula / Santa Clara River Valley	Medium *	Nitrates can fluctuate significantly in the basin, and above MCL. Other inorganics present above MCL. TDS is known to be high.
Mound / Santa Clara River Valley	Medium *	Some primary and secondary inorganic contaminants above the MCL (B-118).
Oxnard Plain (inc. Forebay) / Santa Clara River Valley	High *	Saline intrusion, nitrates, pesticides, and PCBs have impacted some water wells per (B-118).
na / Pleasant Valley	High *	PC - Discharge of poor quality GW from dewatering wells and effluent discharge from the wastewater treatment facility into the Arroyo Simi have led to rising water levels in the basin along with higher TDS and Chloride levels
na / Las Posas	High*	TDS is generally high in this basin. REH - Public Comment includes reports of subsidence, overdraft and saline intrusion (chloride from adjacent basin?)

Key Implementation Dates

Date	Action
June 30, 2017	Formation of GSAs
Jan. 31, 2020	Completion of GSPs in critically overdrafted basins
Jan. 31, 2022	Completion of GSPs in all other high/medium priority basins
20 years after adoption of plan	High- and medium-priority basins achieve sustainability

DWR may grant up to two, five-year extensions on implementation upon showing of good cause and progress

Groundwater Planning Process

Forming Groundwater Sustainability Agencies

(by June 2017)


- Any *local agency* or combination of agencies overlying basin may elect to be a GSA
- *Local agency* is any public agency that does at least one of the following:
 - Water supply
 - Water management
 - Land use
- Counties are the default GSA in “unmanaged” areas
- Can be more than one GSA in basin, but cannot overlap areas
 - Local Exceptions:
 - Ojai Basin Groundwater Management Agency
 - Fox Canyon Groundwater Management Agency
- Public Process



New Management Responsibilities Under SGMA

Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) are responsible for:

- Maintaining basin groundwater sustainability
- Submittal of annual reports to the Department of Water Resources including
 - Groundwater elevation data
 - Annual aggregated groundwater extraction data
 - Surface water supply used and available for groundwater recharge or in-lieu use
 - Total water use
 - Change in groundwater storage
- Conduct periodic review and assessment of the GSP, evaluating and responding to changing conditions
- Conduct public hearings regarding GSP adoption or amendment




GSA Authorities

“...may perform any act necessary or proper to carry out the purposes...”
of this act, including, for example:

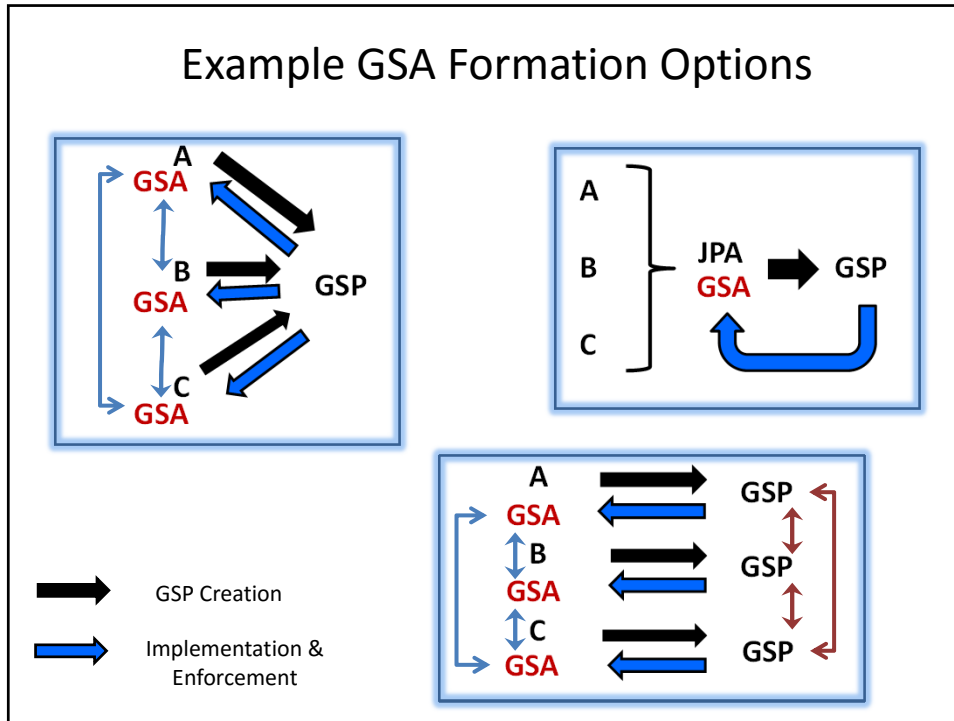
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|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Adopt rules, regulations, ordinances, and resolutions; ○ Develop groundwater sustainability plan; ○ Propose and collect fees; ○ Monitor compliance and enforcement; ○ Investigate, appropriate, and acquire surface water, surface water rights, groundwater, and groundwater rights into the GSA; ○ Registration of groundwater extraction facilities (wells) ○ Reporting of groundwater extractions to GSA; ○ Provide for voluntary following program; | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Transport, reclaim, purify, desalinate, treat, or otherwise manage and control polluted water, wastewater, or other waters for subsequent use; ○ Impose well spacing restrictions on new wells; ○ Impose reasonable operating regulations on existing wells to minimize well interference, including requiring operating on rotation basis; ○ Control groundwater extractions of new, existing, reactivated wells; and ○ Authorize temporary and permanent transfers of groundwater extraction allocations. |
|---|---|

New Groundwater Sustainability Plans

Options for new Groundwater Sustainability Agencies

- Create single GSP covering entire basin
- Multiple GSAs in one basin may prepare separate Plans, but must coordinate and use common data and methods
- Multiple GSAs group together as JPA / MOU / other legal arrangement and create single GSP
- DWR will review multiple GSPs together
- May be possible to use existing plan as “Alternative” under SGMA





- ### New *Groundwater Sustainability Plans*
- Plan Requirements**
- 50-year planning horizon; 20 years to reach sustainability
 - Measurable objectives/interim milestones to reach sustainability goal
 - Physical description of basin
 - Groundwater-surface water interaction
 - Historical and projected data on demands and supplies. Major technical components include, for example:
 - ✓ Water supply sources (SW & GW) / Water demand (M&I, AG, ENV) / WQ / Beneficial water use / Environmental water use / GW pumping / GW recharge / GW elevations / Subsidence / Land use changes / Monitoring & enforcement pgms / Management alternatives / BMOs / Sustainable yield
 - Monitoring and management provisions
 - Description of how Plan affects other GSPs
 - GSP adoption is exempt from CEQA

What About Water Rights?

- Neither the SGMA nor Groundwater Sustainability Plans alter existing groundwater or surface water rights
- However, like other property rights, water rights can be regulated
- *“It is the intent of the Legislature to preserve the security of water rights in the state **to the greatest extent possible consistent with the sustainable management of groundwater.**” [Water Code §10720.1]*



Discussing Water Rights, A Western Pastime

What's Next?

- Follow-up Legislation
- Development of rules and guidelines by DWR
- Stakeholder Meetings
- Hearings for GSA Formation
- GSA Operational Framework

State's Roles

- Department of Water Resources
 - Defines the Basins and their Status
 - Regulations & Guidelines
 - Provide Technical Support
- State Water Resources Control Board
 - Intervene if no GSA or no GSP
 - Create an interim plan where there is none
 - Regulates deficiencies

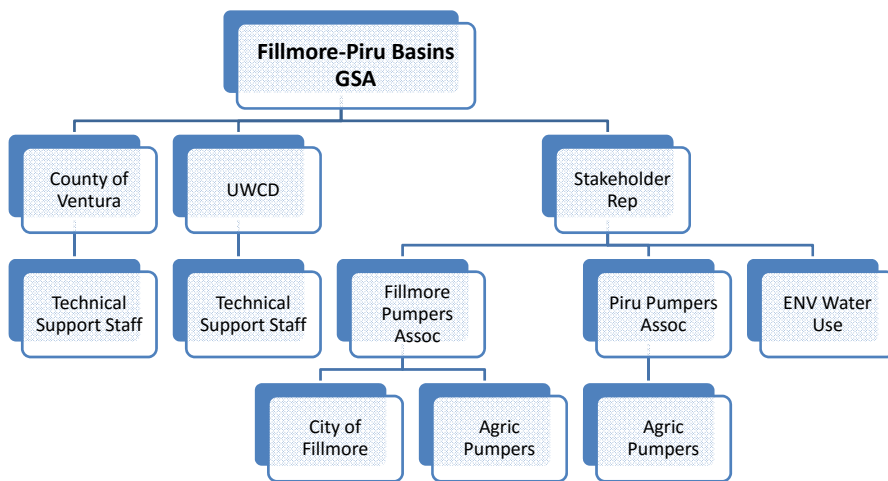


Resources

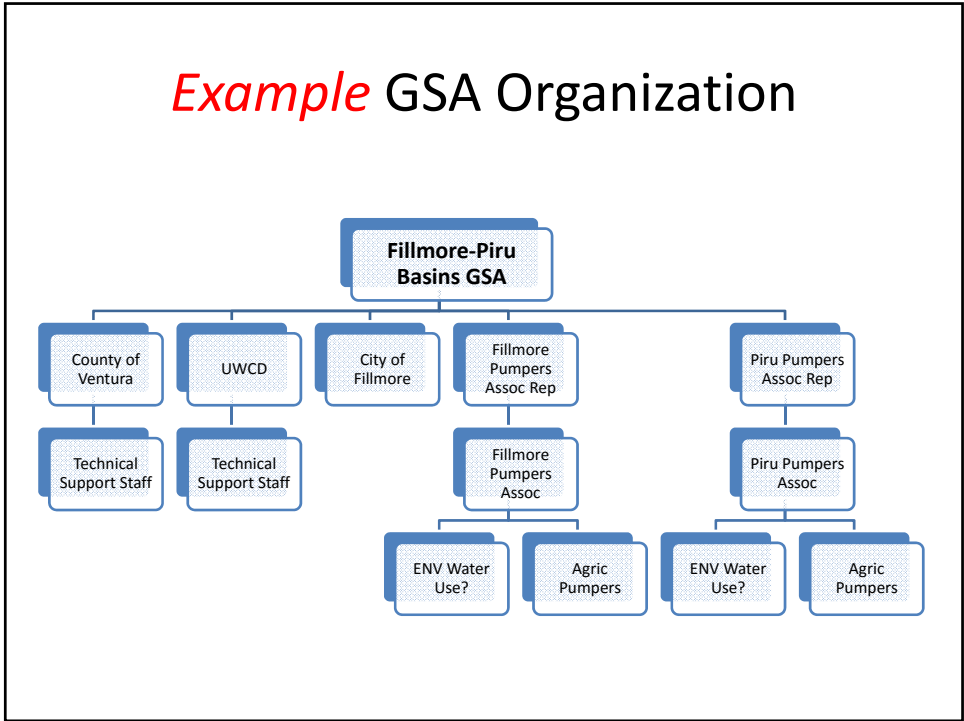
- Full version of SGMA statute and other resources
www.opr.ca.gov/docs/s_groundwater.php
- DWR Groundwater Information Center
www.water.ca.gov/groundwater/
- ACWA's Groundwater Sustainability Page
www.acwa.com/content/groundwater/groundwater-sustainability
- California Water Foundation Information / Recommendations on Groundwater Sustainability
www.californiawaterfoundation.org

QUESTIONS?

Example GSA Organization



Example GSA Organization



Example GSA Organization

