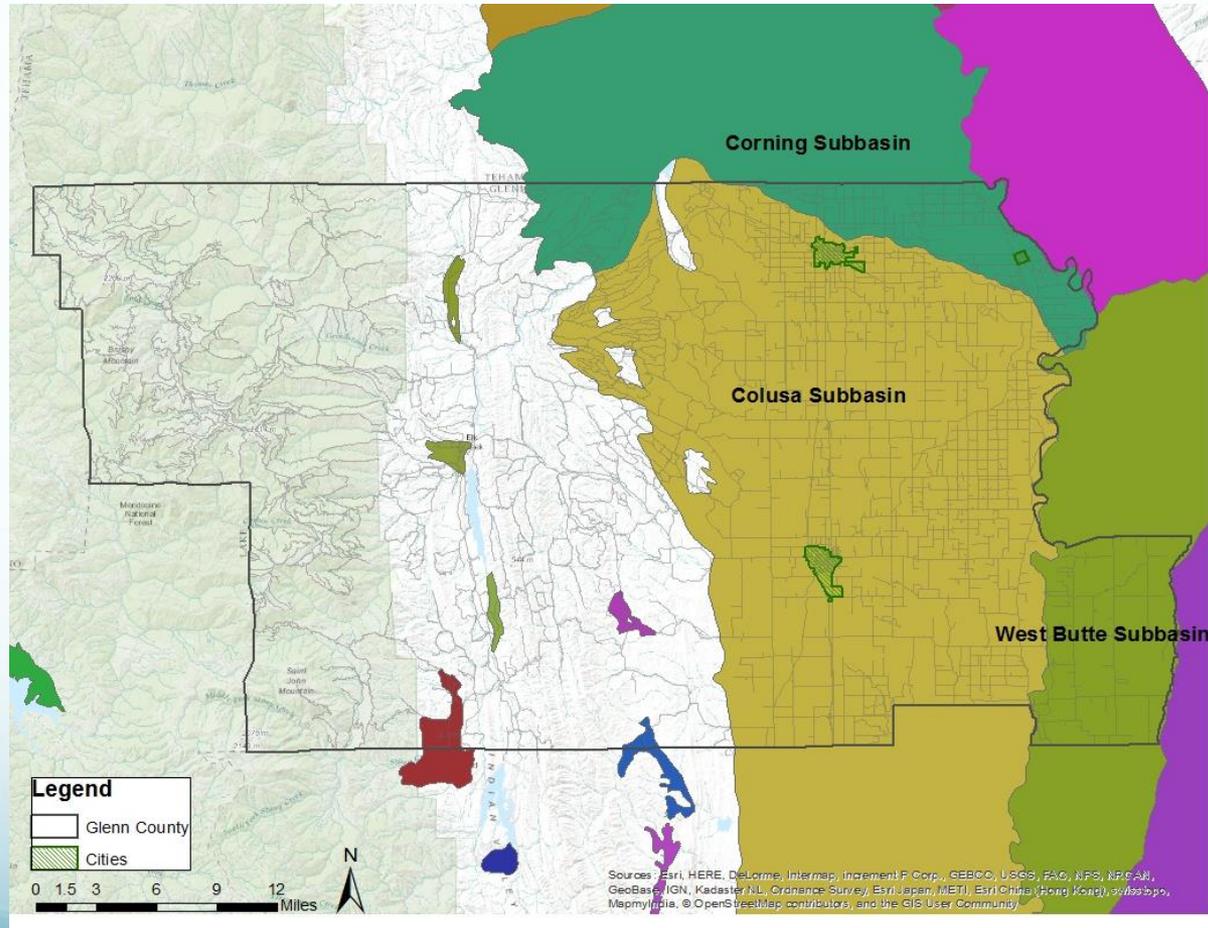


# The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act

## Implementation in Glenn County



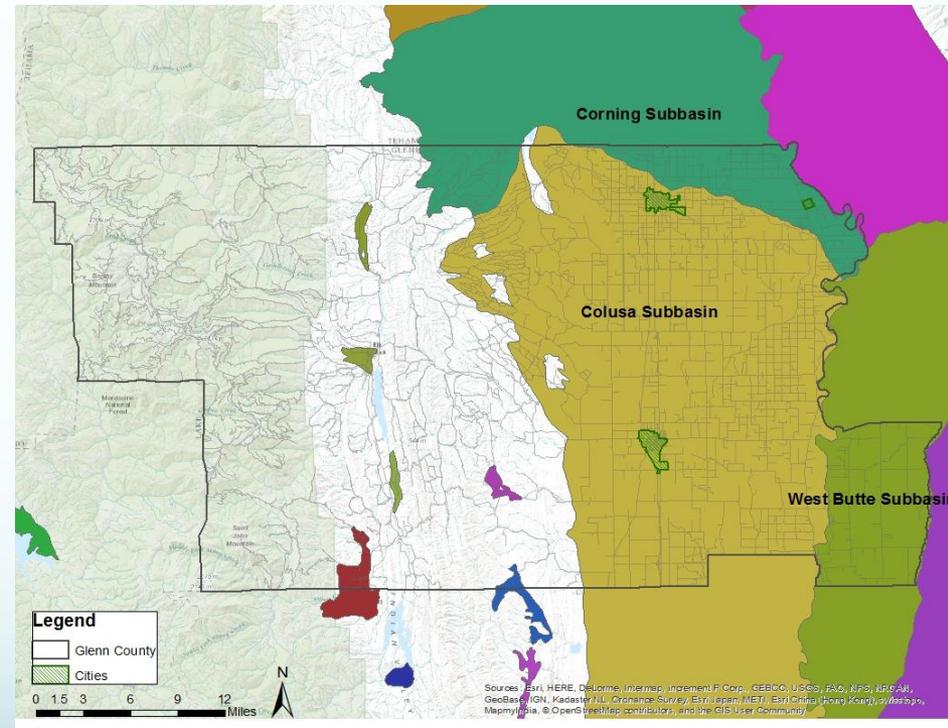
# Presentation Outline

- I. SGMA Background
- II. Preparing to Advance SGMA Locally
- III. Recent SGMA Activities
- IV. Early Implementation
- V. Next Steps

# SGMA Background

***Comprehensive statewide legislation that creates a framework for sustainable groundwater management***

- Became law on January 1, 2015
- All medium and high priority basins managed sustainably
- Emphasis on local control with State oversight
- Groundwater Sustainability Agencies
- Groundwater Sustainability Plans



# SGMA Background

## ***SGMA affects all citizens of Glenn County***

- Offers beneficial opportunities to achieve sustainable groundwater conditions
- Supports agriculture, industry and domestic/public uses
- Requires residents to work together and address our common interest in groundwater resources
- Glenn County supports a collaborative approach to implement SGMA

# SGMA Background

## *How does SGMA define sustainability?*

Sustainability: Manage groundwater to prevent undesirable results (significant and unreasonable):

- Chronic lowering of groundwater levels
- Reduction of groundwater storage
- Seawater intrusion
- Degraded water quality
- Land subsidence
- Depletions of interconnected surface waters

# SGMA Background

## ***Formation of Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs)***

- SGMA requires formation of GSAs to implement SGMA at the local level
- Public agencies with land or water use authority are eligible to become GSAs
  - Counties, cities, water agencies, irrigation districts, PUDs
  - GSA may include one or more local public agencies
- May include a single GSA or multiple GSAs per basin
  - Multiple GSAs must coordinate planning efforts



# SGMA Background

## **GSA Roles and Responsibilities**

*At their discretion, GSAs may...*

- Adopt rules, regulations and ordinances
- Conduct groundwater studies / investigations
- Register and monitor wells
- Require reports of groundwater extraction
- Implement capital projects to meet goals
- Assess fees to cover management costs

# SGMA Background

## GSA Roles and Responsibilities

*Interested parties must be included in SGMA planning:*

- All Groundwater Users
- Holders of Overlying Rights (agriculture and domestic)
- Municipal Well Operators and Public Water Systems
- Tribes
- County
- Planning Departments / Land Use Agencies
- Local Landowners
- Disadvantaged Communities
- Business
- Federal Government
- Environmental Uses
- Surface Water Users (*if connection between surface and groundwater*)

# SGMA Background

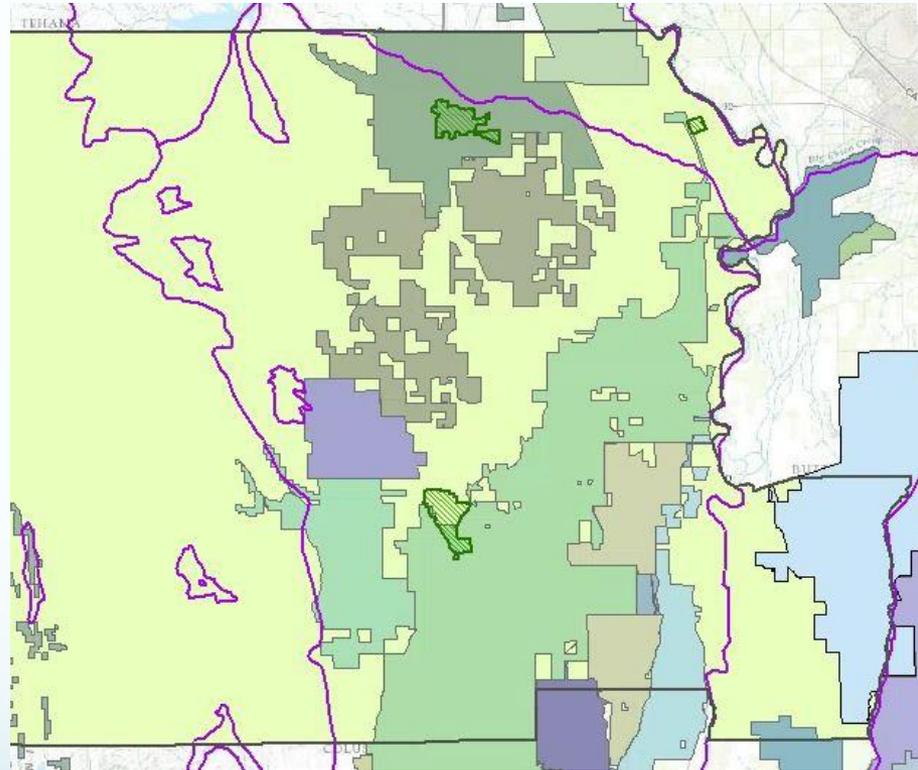
## ***How are domestic well owners affected by SGMA?***

- Referred to in SGMA as “de minimis” users IF...
  - Use 2 acre-feet per year or less for domestic purposes
- De minimis users are subject to SGMA, depending on local needs
  - GSAs will decide how de minimis users are addressed
  - GSAs can decide to exclude or include
  - GSAs can decide on fees but *cannot* require metering
  - May be subject to reporting / fees to State if intervention occurs
- Domestic wells can also be regulated by authorities (counties, water districts, etc.) outside scope of SGMA

# SGMA Background

## ***“White Areas”***

- County is presumed to be the GSA over areas that are not covered by another GSA-eligible agency
- If the County opts out, the State will manage those areas



# SGMA Background

## *Development of Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs)*

- GSAs are responsible to develop GSPs
- Every high and medium priority groundwater basin must be covered by a GSP or GSPs
- Option of a single GSP covering the entire basin, or a combination of GSPs, developed by multiple GSAs, covering the entire basin
- Multiple GSPs must coordinate, utilize the same data / methodologies, and have a coordination agreement

# SGMA Background

## *Key Implementation Milestones*

- February 18, 2016 - Draft GSP regulations released
- June 1, 2016 – Final GSP regulations approved by CWC
- June 30, 2017 – GSAs must be formed
- July 1, 2017 – Counties affirm GSA status
- January 31, 2020 – GSPs complete for critically over-drafted basins
- January 31, 2022 – All other GSPs complete

# SGMA Background

## *Department of Water Resources (DWR) and State Water Board Roles and Oversight*

- DWR:
  - Develop Basin Boundary and GSP regulations
  - Review GSPs, decide on adequacy, implementation
- State Water Board:
  - Implement State intervention
  - Reporting
  - Assess fees
  - Designate Probationary Basins
  - Develop Interim Plans, implement those Plans

# SGMA Background

## ***State Water Board Intervention***

In all triggering events, intervention is the result of failure by locals to create a GSA(s) and/or adopt and implement a GSP.

- Data
  - Same data needed by a GSA, but now managed by State
  - Higher frequency (monthly minimum reporting)
- Fees
  - Fees associated with reporting
  - Board recovers cost for all intervention-related activities (monitoring plans, well construction, facilitation, technical studies, models)
- Interim plans
  - Pumping restrictions are most straight-forward
  - State developed physical solutions are unlikely

**Initial comments and/or  
questions**

# Preparing to Advance SGMA Locally

*What has the County done to advance SGMA locally?*

- Dedicated staff resources
- Conducted public outreach in 2015
- Fostered early communication with GSA filers
- Maintained communication with surrounding counties
- Received grant for impartial facilitation services from the Center for Collaborative Policy
- Pursued DWR grant for data management to support upcoming SGMA activities

# Recent SGMA Activities

## *GSA Notifications in Glenn County*

- City of Orland
- County of Glenn
- Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District
- Glide Water District
- Kanawha Water District
- Orland-Artois Water District
- Provident Irrigation District and Princeton-Cordora-Glenn Irrigation District
- Reclamation District No. 1004
- Western Canal Water District



# Recent SGMA Activities

## ***SB 13 Amendment – Interpreted by DWR as retroactive***

- Removed the Notice of Intent to be a GSA
- Allows a mutual water company to be part of a GSA through a legal agreement
- Prohibits overlap of service area boundaries
- Prohibits local agencies from imposing fees or reg. requirements on entities outside their boundaries
- Requires DWR to post all “complete” notices within 15 days of receipt

# Recent SGMA Activities

## *Basin Boundary Modifications*

- Existing groundwater basins or subbasins defined in DWR's Bulletin 118
- Local agencies may request boundary modifications
- May include scientific or jurisdictional modifications
- Starting January 1, 2016: 90 day window for local agencies to submit requests for DWR consideration

# Recent SGMA Activities

## *Groundwater Sustainability Plan Regulations*

- By June 1, 2016 DWR shall adopt regulations for:
  - Evaluating GSPs
  - Implementing GSPs
  - Coordination agreements
- The regulations identify:
  - Required GSP components and additional elements
  - Coordination of multiple GSPs in a basin
  - Additional information that assists GSAs

# Draft GSP Regulations

- Require a course to achieve sustainable groundwater management within 20 years of plan implementation
- Fundamental Principle - Local control and management
  - Preserve role of local agencies to manage basins and achieve sustainability,
  - Local flexibility to define problems in basins,
  - Establish minimum thresholds,
  - Set measurable objectives,
  - Determine projects and management actions that will be required to achieve sustainability.
  - Recognize adaptive management as an important tool to address plan uncertainties and improve groundwater management over time.

# Draft GSP Regulations - Timeline

- 57 Pages
- Available for public review at [www.water.ca.gov/groundwater/sgm/gsp.cfm](http://www.water.ca.gov/groundwater/sgm/gsp.cfm)
- Public comments in writing through March 25, 2016.
- 3 public meetings and a statewide webinar in March
- Final GSP Regulations Completed – June 1, 2016

# Draft GSP Regulations - Timeline

## Public Meetings and Webinar

- Monday, March 21, 2016 - Visalia
  - 4:00 P.M. to 6:00 P.M.
- Tuesday, March 22, 2016 – Santa Ana
  - 1:00 P.M. to 3:00 P.M.
- Thursday, March 24, 2016 - Webinar
  - 1:00 P.M. to 3:00 P.M.
- Friday, March 25, 2016 - Sacramento
  - 9:00 A.M. to 11:00 A.M.

# Proposed Process In Glenn County

The County received Department of Water Resources grant funding for facilitation services from the Center For Collaborative Policy.

- Background preparation
- Outreach and education
- GSA Governance development

# Proposed Process in Glenn County

## *Background Preparation*

- Review background materials
- Conduct initial interviews with eligible GSA agencies
- Prepare 90-Day Plan
- Prepare initial facilitation strategy



# Proposed Process in Glenn County

## *Outreach and Education*

- Prepare education and outreach materials
- Coordinate and facilitate local outreach and education meetings for agencies and private well owners
- Facilitate collaboration so all interested parties can participate and work together towards sustainability

# Proposed Process in Glenn County

## ***GSA Governance***

- Coordinate and facilitate public meetings about governance
- Coordinate and facilitate meetings of several GSA eligible agencies
- Conduct meetings with individual GSA eligible agencies
- Support representation of domestic well owner interests

# Key Considerations as We Move Forward

*The County believes a collaborative approach is best*

- We all have a vested interest in our groundwater
- GSA formation, GSP preparation, and and long-term implementation will create costs for many users
- Pooling resources will improve efficiencies and capitalize skills and strengths of various partners

# Next Steps

*So where do we go from here?*

- Convene Governance Workgroup
- Hold additional public meetings
- Continued coordination with adjacent subbasins

# **Discussion**

**Your comments, questions  
and input**