

MEETING SUMMARY | April 26, 2016

Glenn Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) – Governance Workgroup Meeting #1

MEETING RECAP

- Sacramento State University, Center for Collaborative Policy (Center) Facilitator Dave Ceppos presented core elements of the SGMA to create common understanding of issues that the Governance Workgroup will discuss at this and future meetings.
- Meeting attendees learned how SGMA defines Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) and what this means for the roles and responsibilities these agencies have to develop and implement Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs).
- Meeting attendees learned about GSA governance options and their respective pros/cons.
- Meeting attendees received a presentation of a stakeholder assessment conducted by the Center.
- Meeting attendees considered potential common principles to guide collaboration.

For more local information visit the [Glenn County Water Resources Webpage](#).

For information on SGMA visit the [Department of Water Resources SGMA Webpage](#).

MEETING SUMMARY

Introduction

The facilitator introduced himself informing meeting participants that he is the SGMA program manager from the Center and is the facilitator for the GSA formation process in Glenn County. He explained that some of the information from the meeting's presentation will be similar to the public meeting presentation that occurred in Orland on March 8, 2016 but will go into greater detail. Governance Workgroup meetings are open to the public and time will always be allotted for public input. However, the central purpose of the meetings is to focus on how local groundwater governance will occur and, therefore, will focus on local agencies that are eligible under SGMA to form GSAs. He reviewed the agenda and meeting materials and invited participants to introduce themselves.

SGMA Background

The facilitator provided general background information about SGMA. SGMA was passed by the State legislature and signed by Governor Brown in fall 2014, and became law on January 1, 2015. SGMA requires that eligible local agencies in all high and medium priority groundwater basins form GSAs by June 2017 and prepare GSPs by January 2022. There are 515 total groundwater basins in California as defined by the Department of Water Resources (DWR) Bulletin 118. Of those, 127 are medium and high priority basins. Local agencies with water planning, management or land use responsibilities are eligible to form GSAs. Three subbasins in the area: Colusa, Corning, and West Butte are subject to SGMA. Smaller subbasins to the west are not subject to SGMA.

Proposed SGMA Approach

As an initial step to prepare for local SGMA implementation, the County applied for facilitation support services through DWR. DWR contracts with the Center's neutral facilitation services to bring interested parties together and foster collaboration. The Center is working across the state from San Diego County in the south to Glenn County in the north. The Center will assist GSA eligible agencies and other interested stakeholders to craft and negotiate mutually acceptable preferences for GSA formation. The facilitator underscored that the Center does not work for any one agency but with and for all stakeholders. Coordination between neighboring subbasins and counties on SGMA related issues is also of paramount importance and will commence in the coming weeks.

The facilitator indicated that Governance Workgroup meetings will occur every 4-6 weeks for a total of approximately 8 meetings. Governance will need to be defined within approximately 8 months.

The facilitator underscored that the Center does not have any pre-conceived notions and expectations of GSA formation in Glenn County beyond the following:

- One or more GSAs must be formed
- Multi-Agency GSA(s) must create governance decisions and documents
- Two or more GSAs must prepare a Coordination Agreement between them
- The County represents and manages all groundwater conditions outside another managed area

GSA Formation and Governance

Many local agencies from Glenn County noticed DWR with the intent to form GSAs as early as the spring and summer of 2015. The notifications required local agencies to submit a copy of the resolution or legal agreement forming the local agency, a copy of any new bylaws, ordinances or new authorities developed by the local agencies, and a list of interested parties and explanation of how their interests will be considered. Senate Bill 13 (SB13) removed the Notice of Intent to be a GSA requirement, allowed mutual water companies to be a part of a GSA by invitation from an eligible GSA agency and through a legal agreement, prohibited local agencies from imposing fees or regulatory requirements on entities outside their boundaries, required DWR to post all complete notices within 15 days of receipt, and prohibited overlap of service area boundaries. In areas where overlap existed, the GSA notification was negated. When Glenn County identified itself as a GSA, it created overlap that needs to be reconciled. The facilitator reviewed the subbasins—Corning to the north, West Butte, and Colusa—and informed the group that they will all be required to coordinate. Yolo County has submitted a basin boundary modification to expand the Yolo Subbasin to their northern county boundary. Colusa, Glenn and Butte Counties currently have not requested a basin boundary modification. Tehama County has requested a boundary modification to pull a very small northernmost portion of the Colusa Subbasin into the adjacent Corning Subbasin.

The facilitator expressed that SGMA is agnostic about which local agency or agencies form a GSA as long as the agencies fit the eligibility definition which he reiterated as any local agency

or combination of local agencies overlying a groundwater basin that has water supply, water management, or land use responsibilities within a groundwater basin (Water Code Section 10721). The question becomes whether a local agency has the ability and interest to form a GSA. The facilitator referred to eligible GSAs as the “first among equals” under SGMA because of how the legislation is written.

The draft GSP regulations are very specific about the responsibilities of GSAs. In the GSP regulations a GSA will need to have an explanation of the Agency’s decision-making process and how stakeholder input and public response will be used, identification of opportunities for stakeholder engagement, and a description of how the Agency encourages the active involvement of diverse social, cultural, and economic elements of the population within the basin (Article 5 Section 354.10(e)).

The facilitator identified the local agencies in Glenn County that have submitted GSA notifications to DWR. They include:

- 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 1004
- Western Canal Water District

The facilitator moved to a discussion of the “second among equals” under SGMA, referring to water corporations or mutual water companies. When SGMA was originally enacted, there was no way for mutual water companies to become involved in governance. SB13 has opened a “one way door” meaning that these entities can become part of a GSA by invitation but cannot become a GSA themselves.

The facilitator then spoke about the “third among equals” under SGMA referring to private or unaffiliated pumpers and the public. While SGMA does not grant any special authorities to this group, the statute includes two citations relevant to these parties:

- Consideration of interests of all beneficial uses and users of groundwater (10723.2)
- A GSA may enter into written agreements and funding with a private party to assist in, or facilitate the implementation of, a GSP or any elements of the plan (10726.5)

The facilitator clarified that while that’s all that SGMA says, it doesn’t mean that private pumpers shouldn’t have a voice. However, there are differences about who can sit at the table. Even so, there are creative ways to bring private pumpers to the table but different layers of governance need to be created to accomplish that outcome.

White Areas

As per the law, areas that fall outside the service boundaries of eligible and ultimately, established GSAs, known as “White Areas,” are to be represented by the County. If the County opts out, the State will manage those areas. There are over 20 local agencies in Glenn County that are eligible to become a GSA. However, aside from the County, no other entity is required to formally opt out by notifying the State.

Development of GSPs

The facilitator transitioned to a discussion of the development of GSPs. GSAs are responsible to develop GSPs. Every high and medium priority groundwater basin must be covered by a GSP or GSPs. There is an option to develop a single GSP that covers the entire basin, or a combination of GSPs, developed by multiple GSAs, covering the entire basin. Multiple GSPs must coordinate, utilize the same data and methodologies and have a coordination agreement. SGMA is agnostic about whether individual agencies manage their individual districts sustainably. The law requires groundwater sustainability be achieved basin-wide. That doesn’t mean that SGMA implementation shouldn’t occur at a localized level. However, if there are multiple GSAs and GSPs and different consultants and technical information, most likely the State is going to have difficulty determining the sustainability of a basin.

Key Implementation Milestones

- June 1, 2016: Final GSP regulations approved by California Water Commission
- June 30, 2017: GSAs must be formed
- July 1, 2017: State affirms GSA status
- January 31, 2020: Critically Over-drafted Basins GSPs complete
- January 31, 2022: All other GSPs complete

The facilitator emphasized that next year this time, governance will need to be defined. By April 2017, the ratification process should be underway. If the group is still working out the details by this time next year, it is unlikely that the deadline will be met. If local agencies are not in compliance, the State Water Resources Control Board (State Board) will intervene.

Open Discussion

- Question: Please clarify the GSP submission dates. Response: There are two GSP completion deadlines. The Critically Over-drafted Basins GSPs must be completed by January 31, 2020. For all other high and medium priority basins, the deadline is January 31, 2022. This starts a 20 year time horizon to demonstrate sustainability by 2042.

GSA Powers and Authorities

The facilitator provided an overview of GSA Powers and Authorities noting that this topic will be explored in greater detail at the May Governance Workgroup meeting. He explained that a GSA must prepare a GSP and at a GSA’s discretion it may: adopt rules, regulations and ordinances, conduct groundwater studies and investigations, register and monitor wells, require reports of

groundwater extraction, implement capital projects to meet goals, and assess fees to cover management costs.

Domestic Wells (De Minimis Users)

Private pumpers who extract less than 2 acre feet per year of groundwater for domestic purposes, are referred to as “de minimis” users and are subject to SGMA however they are addressed differently than other groundwater users. SGMA does not require measurement of de minimis users so questions exist about how such water users will be identified. Ultimately, the local GSAs decide how de minimis users will be affected by SGMA.

GSA Roles and Responsibilities

Interested parties need to be included in SGMA planning. Every GSA will be required to conduct outreach to all of the following entities. If a subbasin forms multiple GSAs, the same stakeholders will receive multiple notices as required by law. This demonstrates that there may be areas where coordination might be beneficial. While Tribes and the federal government are sovereign entities that cannot become GSAs, outreach to these entities is required by SGMA.

- All groundwater users
- Holders of overlying rights
- Municipal well operators and public water systems
- Tribes
- County
- Planning departments
- Local landowners
- Disadvantaged communities
- Business
- Federal government
- Environmental uses
- Surface water users (if there is a connection between surface and groundwater)

Governance Options

The facilitator called participants’ attention to the handout entitled *Groundwater Sustainability Agency Options*. He said that Richard Shanahan of the law firm Bartkiewicz, Kronick & Shanahan originally developed this document for Yolo County and gave the Center permission to use it as a resource in other basins. The facilitator clarified that he is not an attorney but is presenting this information that was developed by an attorney.

The GSA options include forming a single existing local agency, a single new local agency created through special legislation or LAFCO proceeding, combination of local agencies acting together under joint powers agreement or memorandum of agreement or another legal agreement. The facilitator then reviewed the following table which describes each GSA option and the pros and cons of each. He ensured participants that the group would spend more time considering these options in future meetings.

<i>Option</i>	<i>Pros</i>	<i>Cons</i>
Single existing local agency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Simple and quick > Existing administration and overhead 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Would not allow for participation by other affected agencies > May be opposed by other agencies > Other than the County (assuming subbasin boundaries adjusted), no one local agency that covers the entire subbasin
Single new local agency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Able to tailor type, territory (could be regional), structure, governing board, etc. to fit unique subbasin circumstances > More permanent than contract-based GSA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Would require special legislation or LAFCO proceeding > Time-consuming and uncertain process > Would require local collaboration and political support > Would be new government agency, additional layer of government, and administrative costs > Difficult to dissolve
Memorandum of agreement or joint powers agreement not creating new authority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Easy, flexible means for affected agencies to coordinate on management to fit local circumstances > Member parties can retain some control through advisory board and budget > Easy to dissolve if not satisfactory > Could be used as a tool to coordinate among multiple GSAs > Private utilities, mutual water companies and other non-local agency parties could participate in a MOA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Requires mutual trust and agreement to form > If single GSA, may be difficult to agree upon lead agency to assume primary management role > Concerns about another agency controlling local groundwater > If multiple GSAs, then need to ensure plan coordination and use of same data and methodologies > Local agency parties would cede some control to the lead agency
Joint powers agreement creating new authority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Easy, flexible means for affected agencies to tailor a new regional agency and governing board to fit local circumstances > Member parties can retain control over JPA through the governing board and budget > Easy to dissolve if not satisfactory > May delegate voting power to non-local agency > May allow for associate member participation without conferring voting power > Mutual water company may be a party 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Requires mutual trust and agreement to form > Local agency parties would cede some control to the authority > With many parties, a party may be concerned about limited voting rights on board > Concerns about new authority controlling local groundwater > Can be difficult and time consuming to agree upon contract terms > Can be hard to keep together if JPA is easy to dissolve > Would be new government agency, additional layer of government, and administration costs

Local Implementing Agency (LIA) Concept and Management Areas

The facilitator underscored that a GSA and GSP could be structured such that the GSA is responsible for the subbasin-wide SGMA responsibilities (e.g., planning, monitoring, reporting) and that the constituent local agencies are responsible for other localized actions. He referred

to the management areas concept found in the draft GSP regulations indicating that the Center has been developing a governance concept called Local Implementing Agency (LIA). The Center has observed that many local agencies are looking at the statute and thinking if they don't notice to be a GSA, they may not be able to protect their interests. The LIA concept may provide an opportunity to apply a localized approach to governance that is integrated with the management area framework. Eligible GSAs are granted certain rights but it may not be necessary to become a GSA and to be responsible for policy level decisions to ensure that a local agency's interests are protected. There may be an intermediate layer of governance that achieves the objectives of many local agencies. The LIA concept will be a topic on the next Governance Workgroup meeting agenda. The facilitator then asked Mark Nordberg, DWR GSA Project Manager, if he expected the management area concept to be retained in the final GSP regulations. Mark indicated that the regulations will be refined and there may be some changes to the management area concept. However, overall, DWR received positive feedback about the management areas and he expected it to be retained in the final regulations. The facilitator offered that there are heterogeneous conditions in the county and management areas acknowledge the variability of groundwater conditions. However, he emphasized that the subbasins would still be required to demonstrate overall sustainability. He also made the distinction that the regulations define management areas as a technical not a governance construct. The Center believes that the LIA concept can serve as a governance overlay to the management area construct. However, it is important to realize the difference between the two.

The facilitator summarized the discussion of GSA options by suggesting that there are many different ways to distribute authority and power and there are creative ways to form a JPA. He referenced the Sacramento Groundwater Authority as one example and noted that the Center is compiling examples from around the state.

Open Discussion

- Comment: In reference to the LIA concept, it will be important to distinguish between the relationship of the GSA and the operating agency.
- Question: Would the State allow a County to relinquish control of areas within its jurisdiction to another agency or district? Response: We often use the terms "fringe" areas and "hole in the doughnut" to describe an area within or directly adjacent to a local agency that would seem very small and difficult for the County to provide GSA oversight for. There are several reasons why it may not make sense for the County to address these fringes and holes." However, another local agency (other than the County) would not be able to claim these areas outside of its boundaries. The local agency and the County would have to mutually agree through a legal agreement that the agency would take responsibility for the fringe / hole areas. This would not change the boundaries of the local agency as that would trigger a LAFCO process. The bottom line is that the State wants to avoid unmanaged areas and all areas of each basin must be spoken for by some GSA.

Stakeholder Interests/ Assessment Findings

The facilitator transitioned into a discussion of stakeholder interests explaining that the Center conducted interviews with local agencies who had noticed DWR of their intent to form GSAs. Some of those interviewed have noticed in both Glenn and Colusa Counties. The Center has not spoken with all eligible GSA local agencies but conversations with these stakeholders will take place in the coming weeks and months. The preliminary assessment was a start and has informed the initial approach to GSA formation in Glenn County. The Center incorporated comments from the public meeting in the assessment findings as well. The facilitator invited his colleague, Tania Carlone, Senior Mediator with the Center to co-present the findings since both Ms. Carlone and Mr. Ceppos conducted interviews.

Ms. Carlone informed the group that the Center interviewed the following agencies.

- City of Orland
- Kanawha Water District
- Glide Water District
- Orland Artois Water District
- County of Glenn
- Glenn Colusa Irrigation District
- Provident Irrigation District and Princeton-Cordora-Glenn Irrigation District
- Reclamation District 1004

Ms. Carlone noted that Western Canal Water District has also noticed DWR of their intent to form a GSA and an interview with the agency has been scheduled and is forthcoming. She went on to describe that the Center used a common set of questions that focused on the interests, issues and challenges; agencies' perspectives on GSA formation and structure; and a preliminary discussion of the roles and responsibilities for SGMA implementation. The Center synthesized the findings and distilled high level themes and trends. The Center does not attribute any findings to individuals or entities. Ultimately, many of the interviews revolved around the central question: What do you wish to achieve and/or avoid through SGMA implementation?

Ms. Carlone then presented the common themes that came out of the assessment, including:

- Agencies felt a strong need to protect their interests and the interests of those they represent.
- They expressed significant concern about the County's intended objectives and capabilities to act as a GSA.
- In light of concerns about the County, stakeholders referenced the well moratorium as an example of the County's blanket policy approach to groundwater management that they felt did not acknowledge the variability of conditions throughout the county.
- Many also expressed concern about future surface water access and surface water rights.
- Local agencies expressed common agreement that they do not support or want State intervention.
- Several entities communicated a desire to implement SGMA at the local agency scale.

- At the public meeting, several members of the public and private pumpers articulated concerns about how to represent the interests of private well owners.
- Overall, agencies suggested that they would most likely want to develop a GSP through coordinated activities, citing concerns about the necessary resources to develop a plan. Likewise, a few agencies noted concerns about the resources required to administer a GSA.
- In general, agencies expressed a willingness to work with other local agencies to implement SGMA but they did not articulate the details of how to configure collaborative or coordinated activities.
- Finally, many agencies felt that time was of the essence and that there was a sense of urgency to move forward in order to meet the GSA formation compliance deadline of June 30, 2017.

Ms. Carlone then pivoted to a discussion of the assessment findings where stakeholders articulated diverse perspectives.

- While many agencies noted concerns about the County's role as a GSA, some noted that the County has a unique role to play in SGMA implementation as defined by the statute and given its land use responsibilities.
- Related to stakeholders' desire to protect their interests, the interests themselves were diverse and in some cases may represent competing interests such as: municipal, domestic and agricultural uses.
- Finally, agencies envisioned GSA governance options differently. Some stated a preference for stand-alone GSAs. Others felt that a multi-agency GSA approach would be more cost effective. Fewer thought that a countywide GSA would be the preferred approach.

Ms. Carlone welcomed questions, comments and insights from meeting participants. The group did not have any comments directly related to the assessment findings. The facilitator then invited an open discussion about the presentation in general.

- Comment: It appears that a multi-agency GSA approach would allow us to leverage our funds and expertise and make SGMA implementation more cost-effective.
- Question: What funding will the State make available for SGMA implementation?
Response: The State funds available for SGMA implementation include:
 - Facilitation services for GSA Formation
 - Chapter 10 of the Water Bond—the first round for technical and planning proposals has already been awarded. \$10 million was available to Counties only in this first round and only \$6.8 million was requested. Glenn County received \$250,000 for data management. Glenn County did not require a match since it qualified as a Disadvantaged Community (DAC).
 - There will be future rounds of funding under Chapter 10 of the Water Bond. A total of \$83-86 million will be available. While DWR has not announced the anticipated schedule for the next round of funding, the currently thinking is that

it will likely occur in spring 2017. However, given that there are at least 127 basins that will request funding, it is clear that the State funds will not be adequate to meet the need of GSAs. The rest will need to be figured out locally which raised questions about fee assessment and Proposition 218 processes.

- **Comment:** It would be helpful to have the LIA concept white paper by the next meeting. This may help us gain a better understanding of the options and assist us in becoming better aligned on the governance options.

Potential Common Principles

The facilitator introduced the idea of establishing common principles for SGMA implementation in Glenn County. He asserted that these principles serve as fundamental statements about the “truths that people hold to be self-evident.” He explained that the Center often starts processes with common principles because they give people a document to point to that endeavors to uphold commonly agreed upon values throughout the process. At future meetings, the group will refine these principles.

Closing Remarks

The facilitator informed the group that the next meeting will focus on a detailed discussion of roles and responsibilities. He urged local eligible GSA agencies to start to make decisions about the roles and responsibilities they wish to take on in GSA formation and SGMA implementation. Finally, the facilitator thanked the participants for coming and expressed appreciation to Lisa Hunter, Glenn County Water Resources Coordinator. He said that in the assessment interviews many of the local agencies lauded Lisa for her ongoing efforts. He acknowledged the County for pursuing a grant to retain the facilitation services from the Center and for developing a successful grant application for the first round of Proposition 1 funding.

Meeting Participants

- Bruce Roundy GCRCD, City of Orland, Mayor
- Ted Trimble Western Canal Water District (WCWD)
- Olin Applegate Larry Walker and Associates
- Terry Bressler RD1004
- Sharron Ellis Glenn County
- Emil Cavagnolo Orland Artois Water District
- Kevin Backus Glenn County Environmental Health
- Grant Davids Davids Engineering
- Laura Foglia UC Davis
- Pat Kennedy GCID
- Greg Johnson WCWD
- Dan Gamon Kleinfelder
- Ron Stilwell North State Drilling
- Anjanette Shadley WCWD
- Thad Bettner GCID
- R Mark Layman Grower
- John Viegas Glenn County Board of Supervisors

- Vickie Newlin Butte County
- John Campbell Campbell Ranch
- Paddy Turnbull Capay Landowners Association
- Michael Alves Kanawha and Glide Water Districts
- Ryan Teubert Tehama County Flood Control & Water Conservation District
- Bill Ehorn Department of Water Resources (DWR)
- Mark Nordberg DWR
- Roy Hull DWR
- Kristal Fadtke California Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Matt Gomes Glenn County Public Works
- Pete Carr City of Orland
- Bill Vanderwaal Provost & Pritchard
- Lance Boyd PCGID/PID
- Ben Pennock TAC
- John Williams Big W Ranch, Inc.
- Peter Harman WCWD
- Marcie Skelton Glenn County Agricultural Commissioner

Staff

- Lisa Hunter Glenn County Water Resources Coordinator
- Dave Ceppos Center for Collaborative Policy
- Tania Carlone Center for Collaborative Policy

APPENDICES

The following appendices include all of the meeting materials that were made available to participants.

- Meeting Agenda
- PowerPoint Presentation
- Groundwater Sustainability Options Handout
- Status of GSA Formations (provided by DWR)

Glenn County

Sustainable Groundwater Management Act | Governance Working Group Meeting 1 Local Planning Effort

Date: April 26, 2016

Time: 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Location: Willows City Council Chambers, 201 North Lassen St., Willows, CA 95988

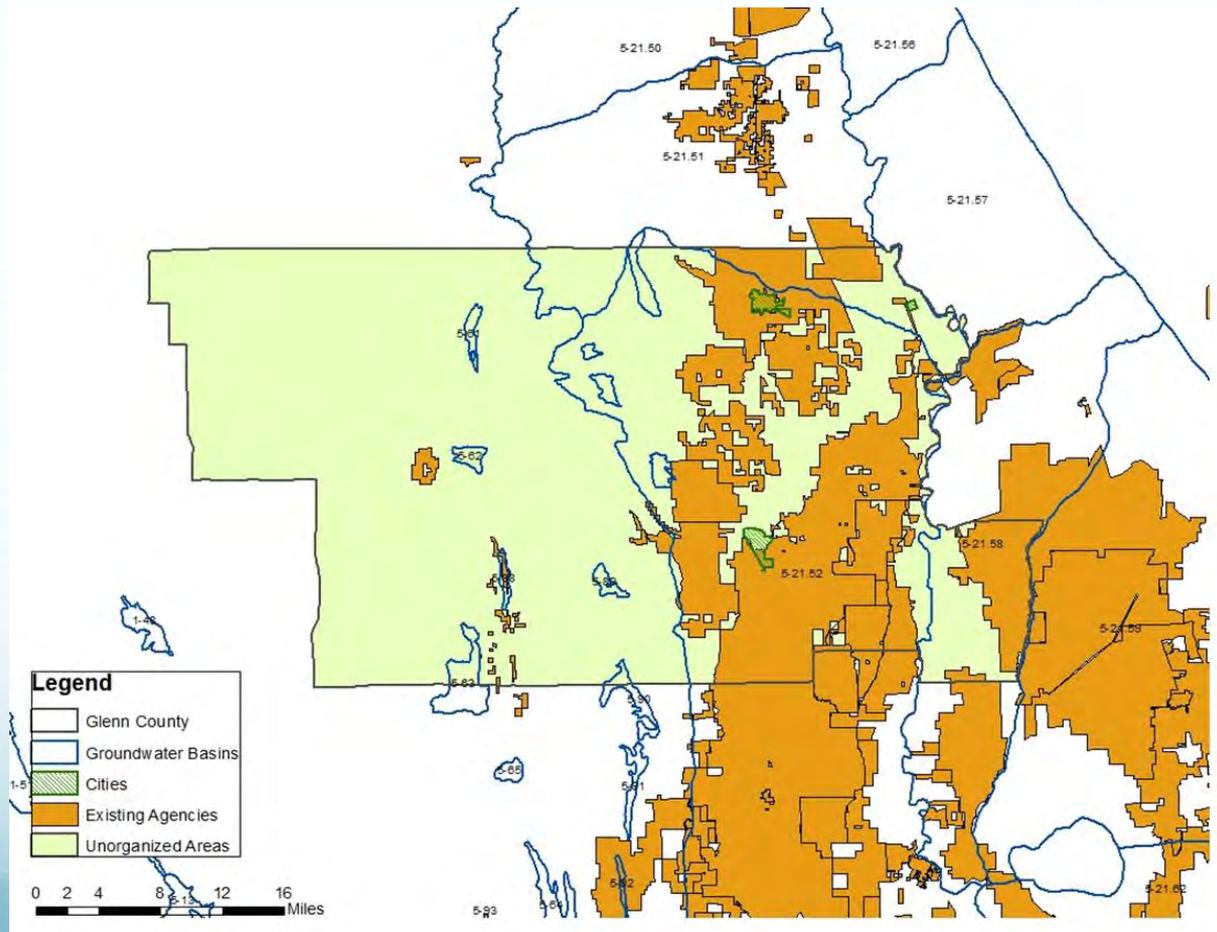
Meeting purpose: Initiate SGMA Governance Planning Discussions in Glenn County

Time	Topic
1:00	Introduction <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Welcome and opening remarks• Agenda review and meeting purpose
1:15	Presentation and Discussion – Glenn SGMA Process <ul style="list-style-type: none">• General Background• Potential Schedule and Approach
1:40	Presentation and Discussion – GSA Formation and Requirements <ul style="list-style-type: none">• GSA Formation Process and Deadlines• Stakeholder Roles and Limitations
2:15	Presentation and Discussion – SGMA Governance <ul style="list-style-type: none">• GSA Powers and Responsibilities• Initial Governance Options
3:00	Presentation and Discussion - Current Interests – Noticed GSAs / Eligible GSAs <ul style="list-style-type: none">• GSA Assessment Outcomes• Public Meeting Outcomes
3:30	Presentation and Discussion – Potential Common Principles
3:50	Next Steps <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Groundwater Sustainability Agency formation and function• Ongoing outreach / role of the public and groundwater users
4:00	Meeting Adjourns

Note: Times are approximate. Breaks will be taken at appropriate times during the meeting and as per participant needs.

The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act in Glenn County

Governance Workgroup Meeting 1



Meeting Outline

- I. SGMA Background
- II. Proposed SGMA Approach
- III. GSA Formation and Governance
- IV. GSA / Stakeholder Interests

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 (GSA)
- Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSP)

SGMA Background

Key Definitions (to be discussed later)

- “Any local agency or combination of local agencies overlying a groundwater basin may decide to become a groundwater sustainability agency for that basin.” (Water Code § 10721)
- “Local agency” means a local public agency that has water supply, water management, or land use responsibilities within a groundwater basin.” (Water Code § 10721)

Glenn SGMA Process – Proposed Approach

The Center for Collaborative Policy will:

- Coordinate and facilitate public meetings about governance and SGMA implementation
- Coordinate and facilitate meetings of GSA eligible agencies and other interested parties (e.g. Governance Workgroup)
- Conduct meetings with individual GSA eligible agencies and others
- Organize and facilitate SGMA coordination meetings between Subbasins and Counties

Glenn SGMA Process – Proposed Schedule

- Initial Public Meeting – March 8
- Governance Workgroup Meeting 1 – April 26
 - Individual Eligible Agency Meetings – Late April – Mid May
- Governance Workgroup Meeting 2 – Late May
 - Individual Eligible Agency Meetings – Late May – Mid June
- Governance Workgroup Meeting 3 – Late June

Governance Workgroup meetings every 4-6 weeks for a total not to exceed 8 meetings.

Glenn SGMA Process – Proposed Topics

- Governance Workgroup Meeting 1
 - Proposed Process / Schedule
 - GSA Requirements and Formation
 - Stakeholder Interests / Common Principles
 - Initial Governance Options
- Governance Workgroup Meeting 2
 - Specific GSA Roles and Responsibilities
 - Specific Governance Options
 - Continued Common Principles
- Governance Workgroup Meeting 3
 - Governance Option Screening
 - Initial Chartering Discussion
- Future Meeting Topics / Schedule To Be Determined

Glenn SGMA Process – Proposed Outcomes

No Expectations Beyond the Following:

- One or more GSAs must be formed
- Multi-Agency GSA(s) must create governance decisions / documents
- Two or more GSAs must prepare a Coordination Agreement (a legal agreement) between them. (Water Code § 10721, 10727)(b)(3), etc.)
- County represents / manages all groundwater conditions outside another managed area (Water Code § 10724)

Open Discussion / Q&A

SGMA Background – GSA Formation

GSA Formation Process and Deadlines

Effective January 1st, 2016, eligible agencies must...

- Submit GSA formation notice within 30 days of decision (e.g. resolution or legal agreement)
- Include map and accompanying narrative indicating:
 1. Local agency service area boundaries
 2. Boundaries the local agency intends to manage
 3. Any other agencies managing or proposing to manage groundwater in the basin

SGMA Background – GSA Formation

GSA Formation Process and Deadlines

Effective January 1st, 2016, eligible agencies must...

- Submit a copy of the resolution or legal agreement forming the local agency
- A copy of any new bylaws, ordinances or new authorities developed by the local agencies
- A list of interested parties and explanation of how their interests will be considered
- New steps reflect passage of SB13

SGMA Background – Service Area Boundaries

Passage of SB 13

Interpreted by DWR as retroactive

- Removed the Notice of Intent to be a GSA
- Allowed 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

SGMA Background – Governance

Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs)

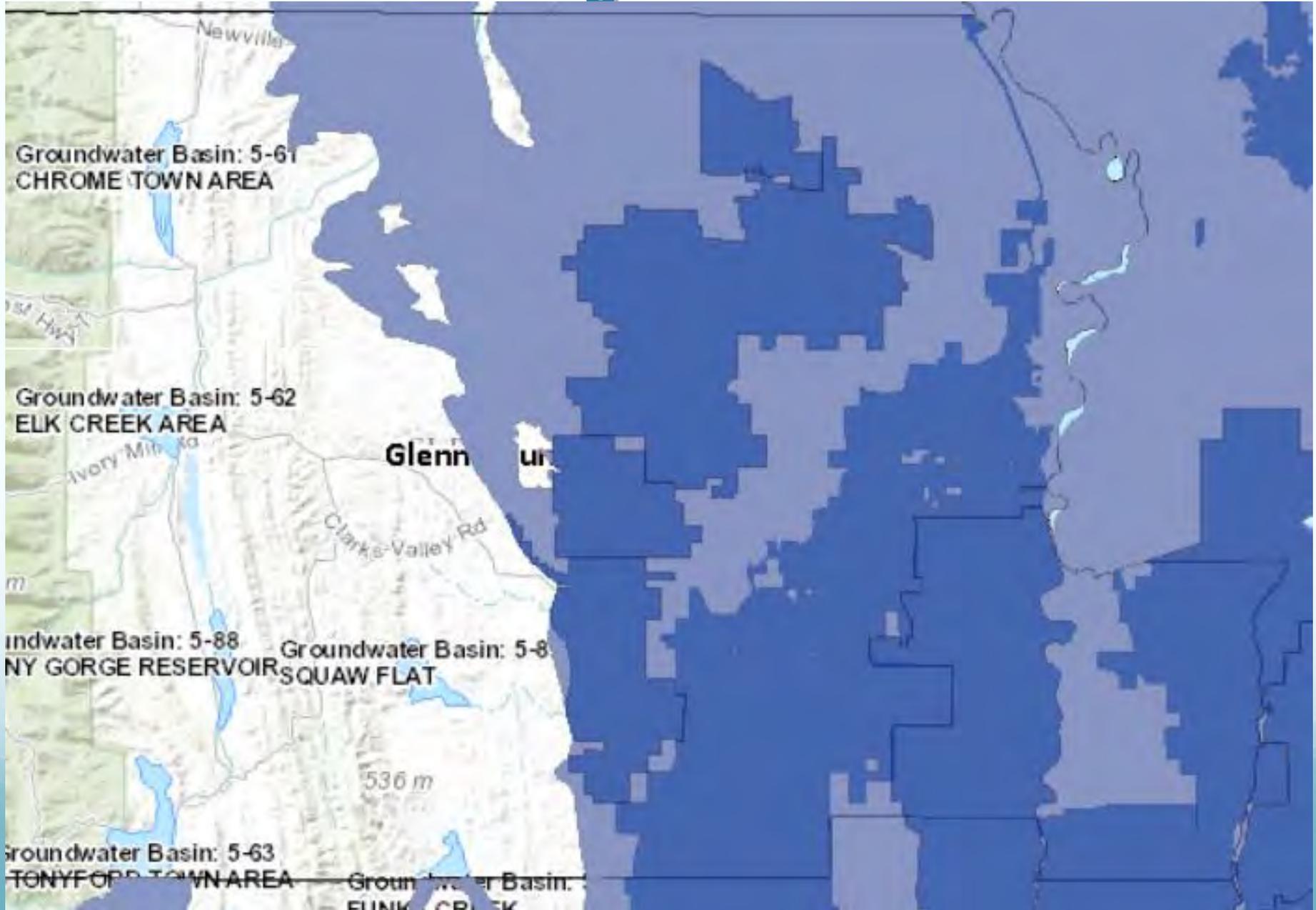
- The “Who Among Equals”
 - 1st Among Equals – Local Agencies
 - 2nd Among Equals – Private Water Companies
 - 3rd Among Equals – Unaffiliated Pumpers / Public

SGMA Background – Governance

Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs)

- “Any local agency or combination of local agencies overlying a groundwater basin may decide to become a groundwater sustainability agency for that basin.” (Water Code § 10721)
- “Local agency” means a local public agency that has water supply, water management, or land use responsibilities within a groundwater basin. (Water Code § 10721)
 - e.g. - counties, cities, water agencies, irrigation districts, drainage districts, PUDs, CSDs or similar

Glenn Water Management Entities/Areas



SGMA Background – Governance

Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs)

- One or more GSAs must be formed per basin / subbasin.
- A GSA may be formed by a single eligible agency, or by legal agreement between two or more eligible agencies.
- Two or more GSAs must prepare a Coordination Agreement (a legal agreement) between them. (Water Code § 10721, 10727)(b)(3), etc.)
- County represents / manages all groundwater conditions outside another managed area. (Water Code § 10724)

SGMA Background – Governance

Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs)

- All GSAs must eventually have a defined governance approach. (*as per GSP Draft regs*)
 - Documentation of the organization and management structure of the Agency. The documentation shall identify persons with management authority for implementation of the Plan. (Article 5, § 354.6 (b))
 - The legal authority of the Agency with specific reference to citations setting forth the duties, powers, and responsibilities of the Agency, including information demonstrating that the Agency has the necessary legal authority to implement the Plan. (Article 5, § 354.6 (d))

SGMA Background – Governance (Draft Regs)

- (e) A communication plan adopted by the Agency, including the following;
 - (1) An explanation of the Agency’s decision-making process and how stakeholder input and public response will be used.
 - (2) Identification of opportunities for stakeholder engagement.
 - (3) A description of how the Agency encourages the active involvement of diverse social, cultural, and economic elements of the population within the basin.
 - (4) A schedule of milestones and scheduled dates for known projects or actions.
 - (5) A description of the roles and responsibilities of local agencies and the public. (Article 5 § 354.10 (e))

Recent SGMA Activities

GSA Notifications in Glenn County

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



SGMA Background – Governance

Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs)

- SB 13 Added - “A water corporation regulated by the Public Utilities Commission or a mutual water company may participate in a groundwater sustainability agency through a memorandum of agreement or other legal agreement. The authority provided by this subdivision does not confer any additional powers to a nongovernmental entity..”

(Water Code § 10723.6 (b))

SGMA Background – Governance

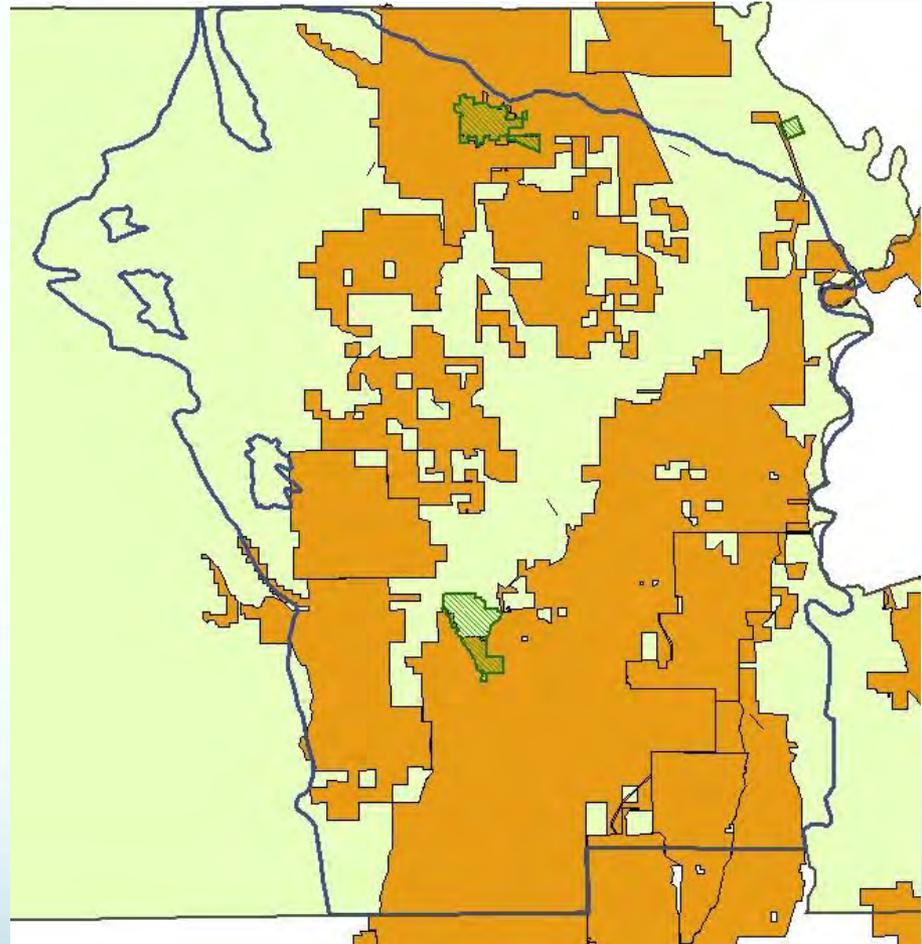
Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs)

- Private / Unaffiliated Pumpers - The Public
 - No special authorities are granted. Only references are:
 - 10723.2 - Consideration of interests of all beneficial uses and users of groundwater
 - 10726.5 - In addition to any other authority granted to a GSA by this part or other law, a GSA may enter into written agreements and funding with a private party to assist in, or facilitate the implementation of, a GSP or any elements of the plan.

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 – Governance

Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs)

- 10724 – Presumption that County will Manage Areas not Covered by a GSA:
 - (a) In the event that there is an area within a high- or medium-priority basin that is not within the management area of a GSA, the county within which that unmanaged area lies will be presumed to be the GSA for that area.
 - (b) A county described in subdivision (a) shall provide notification to the department pursuant to Section 10723.8 unless the county notifies the department that it will not be the GSA for the area.....

SGMA Background – Governance

Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs)

- 10724 – Presumption that County will manage Areas not covered by a GSA:
 - (b) Extractions of groundwater made on or after July 1, 2017, in that area shall be subject to reporting in accordance with Part 5.2 (commencing with Section 5200) of Division 2 if the county does either of the following:
 - (1) Notifies the department that it will not be the GSA for an area.
 - (2) Fails to provide notification to the department pursuant to Section 10723.8 for an area on or before June 30, 2017.

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

- June 1, 2016 – Final GSP regulations approved by CWC
- June 30, 2017 – GSAs must be formed
- July 1, 2017 – State affirms GSA status
- January 31, 2022 – All other GSPs complete

**Initial comments and/or
questions**

SGMA Background – Governance

GSA Powers and Authorities (Water Code § 10725))

A GSA must prepare a GSP. 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 – Governance

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 – Governance

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
- Local Landowners
- Disadvantaged Communities
- Business
- Federal Government
- Environmental Uses
- Surface Water Users (*if connection between surface and groundwater*)

Glenn SGMA – Governance Options

Groundwater Sustainability Agencies Options*

- Single existing local agency
- Single new local agency created through special legislation or LAFCO proceeding
- Combination of local agencies acting together under joint powers agreement or “memorandum of agreement or other legal agreement”

* *Courtesy of Richard Shanahan- Bartkiewicz Kronick & Shanahan*

Glenn SGMA – Governance Options

Groundwater Sustainability Agencies Options*

- Joint Powers Agreement (JPA)
- Authorized by Joint Exercise of Powers Act (Govt. Code 6500 et seq.)
- Two types
 - Creates JPA as new local agency with separate governing board.
 - Does not create new JPA. Agreement as framework for parties to manage a program or project. Sometimes lead agency designated. Sometimes advisory or oversight board created.

Glenn SGMA – Governance Options

Groundwater Sustainability Agencies Options*

- JPA establishment process.
 - Prepare, negotiate and approve agreement
 - If it creates new authority: file with county and Secretary of State; and, new public agency start-up actions.
 - LAFCO not involved.
- JPA parties: local agency, county, city, federal government, tribe, mutual water company; no other private party.

Glenn SGMA – Governance Options

Groundwater Sustainability Agencies Options*

- Memorandum of agreement or other legal agreement
 - Intent seems to be a simpler contract or non-JPA contract.
 - MOA sometimes synonymous with MOU.
 - Could be a range from a nonbinding statement of intent to a more comprehensive binding contract.

* *Courtesy of Richard Shanahan- Bartkiewicz Kronick & Shanahan*

Glenn SGMA – Governance Options

Groundwater Sustainability Agencies Options*

- JPA with limited GSA powers
- Joint Exercise of Powers Act - “two or more public agencies by agreement may jointly exercise any power common to the contracting parties” only to the extent as authorized by their governing boards.
- SGMA defines a GSA to include “each local agency comprising the groundwater sustainability agency if the plan authorizes separate agency action.” (Water Code § 10721(j))

Glenn SGMA – Governance Options

Groundwater Sustainability Agencies Options*

- A GSA and GSP could be structured such that the GSA is responsible for the subbasin-wide SGMA responsibilities (e.g., planning, monitoring, reporting) and that the constituent local agencies are responsible for other localized actions.

* *Courtesy of Richard Shanahan- Bartkiewicz Kronick & Shanahan*

Glenn SGMA – Governance Options

Groundwater Sustainability Agencies Options*

- Key JPA or contract terms to consider
 - Board structure, governance and voting
 - Allocation of costs and funding
 - Delegation of authority and powers
 - GSP preparation and adoption
 - GSP implementation and enforcement
 - Dispute resolution
 - Term, termination and withdrawal

* Courtesy of Richard Shanahan- Bartkiewicz Kronick & Shanahan

Open Discussion / Q&A

SGMA in Glenn County – Current Interests

GSA Assessments – Early 2016

Interviewed local agencies that noticed DWR of intent to form GSAs :

- City of Orland
- Kanawha and Glide Water Districts
- Orland Artois Water District
- County of Glenn
- Glenn Colusa Irrigation District
- Provident Irrigation District and Princeton-Codora-Glenn Irrigation District
- Reclamation District 1004

SGMA in Glenn County – Current Interests

GSA Assessments – Early 2016

- Used common set of questions
 - Interests, issues and challenges
 - Perspectives on GSA formation and structure
 - Initial roles and responsibilities
- Synthesized/summarized high level themes and trends
- No attribution

SGMA in Glenn County – Current Interests

Overarching Question

What do you wish to achieve and/or avoid through SGMA implementation?

SGMA in Glenn County – Current Interests

GSA Assessments – Outcomes

- Common Perspectives / Conditions:
 - Feel the need to protect interests
 - Concern about County objectives and capabilities
 - Wish to avoid blanket groundwater policies that may not account for variability (example: well moratorium)
 - Desire to acknowledge and manage for variable groundwater conditions throughout the county
 - Concern about future surface water access / rights

SGMA in Glenn County – Current Interests

GSA Assessments – Outcomes

- Common Perspectives / Conditions (cont.):
 - Do not support / want State intervention
 - Desire to implement SGMA at local agency scale
 - Concern about how to represent the interests of private well owners
 - Concern about necessary resources to develop GSP and GSA administration
 - Willingness to work with other local agencies to implement SGMA
 - SGMA implementation- sense of urgency

SGMA in Glenn County – Current Interests

GSA Assessments – Outcomes

- Diverse Perspectives / Conditions
 - Role and capabilities of County
 - Competing interests for municipal, domestic and agricultural water uses
 - Stand alone GSAs OR multi-agency GSA OR single countywide GSA

Open Discussion / Q&A

Glenn SGMA – Common Principles

Purpose – Identify common statements / principles that eligible GSAs can support as a starting point.

- Reflect common themes
- Hold collectively accountable to common commitments
- Avoid misunderstandings / misconceptions
- Create focused messages for all County stakeholders and neighboring areas

GLENN COUNTY GOVERNANCE WORKGROUP SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT ACT IMPLEMENTATION

Groundwater Sustainability Agency Options

Richard P. Shanahan - Bartkiewicz Kronick & Shanahan

February 10, 2016

GSA Deadline. By June 30, 2017:

- A local agency has decided to become a GSA that intends to develop a groundwater sustainability plan for the entire subbasin; or
- A collection of local agencies has formed a GSA or prepared agreement(s) to develop one or more groundwater sustainability plans that will collectively serve as a groundwater sustainability plan for the entire subbasin. (Water Code § 10735.2(a).)

Basic GSA Options

- Single existing local agency
- Single new local agency created through special legislation or LAFCO proceeding
- Combination of local agencies acting together under joint powers agreement or “memorandum of agreement or other legal agreement”

- For the GSP, either a single plan for the entire subbasin or multiple, coordinated plans covering the entire subbasin

Joint Powers Agreement

- Authorized by Joint Exercise of Powers Act (Govt. Code 6500 et seq.)
- Two types
 - Creates joint powers authority as new local agency with separate governing board.
 - Does not create new joint powers authority. Agreement as framework for parties to manage a program or project. Sometimes lead agency designated. Sometimes advisory or oversight board created.
- JPA establishment process is simple and flexible
 - Prepare, negotiate and approve agreement
 - If it creates new authority: file with county and Secretary of State; and, new public agency start-up actions.
 - LAFCO not involved.
- JPA parties: local agency, county, city, federal government, tribe, mutual water company; no other private party.

Memorandum of agreement or other legal agreement

- Intent seems to be a simpler contract or non-JPA contract.
- MOA sometimes synonymous with MOU.
- Could be a range from a nonbinding statement of intent to a more comprehensive binding contract.

PROS & CONS OF GSA OPTIONS:

<i>Option</i>	<i>Pros</i>	<i>Cons</i>
Single existing local agency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Simple and quick > Existing administration and overhead 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Would not allow for participation by other affected agencies > May be opposed by other agencies > Other than the County (assuming subbasin boundaries adjusted), no one local agency that covers the entire subbasin
Single new local agency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Able to tailor type, territory (could be regional), structure, governing board, etc. to fit unique subbasin circumstances > More permanent than contract-based GSA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Would require special legislation or LAFCO proceeding > Time-consuming and uncertain process > Would require local collaboration and political support > Would be new government agency, additional layer of government, and administrative costs > Difficult to dissolve
Memorandum of agreement or joint powers agreement not creating new authority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Easy, flexible means for affected agencies to coordinate on management to fit local circumstances > Member parties can retain some control through advisory board and budget > Easy to dissolve if not satisfactory > Could be used as a tool to coordinate among multiple GSAs > Private utilities, mutual water companies and other non-local agency parties could participate in a MOA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Requires mutual trust and agreement to form > If single GSA, may be difficult to agree upon lead agency to assume primary management role > Concerns about another agency controlling local groundwater > If multiple GSAs, then need to ensure plan coordination and use of same data and methodologies > Local agency parties would cede some control to the lead agency
Joint powers agreement creating new authority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Easy, flexible means for affected agencies to tailor a new regional agency and governing board to fit local circumstances > Member parties can retain control over JPA through the governing board and budget > Easy to dissolve if not satisfactory > May delegate voting power to non-local agency > May allow for associate member participation without conferring voting power > Mutual water company may be a party 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Requires mutual trust and agreement to form > Local agency parties would cede some control to the authority > With many parties, a party may be concerned about limited voting rights on board > Concerns about new authority controlling local groundwater > Can be difficult and time consuming to agree upon contract terms > Can be hard to keep together if JPA is easy to dissolve > Would be new government agency, additional layer of government, and administration costs

JPA with limited GSA powers?

- Consider a joint powers agreement with a carefully-constrained delegation of legal authority and power to the new joint powers authority or lead agency. Under the Joint Exercise of Powers Act, “two or more public agencies by agreement may jointly exercise any power common to the contracting parties” only to the extent as authorized by their governing boards. (Govt. Code § 6502.) SGMA defines a GSA to include “each local agency comprising the groundwater sustainability agency if the plan authorizes separate agency action” (Water Code § 10721(j)), which seems to contemplate that a GSA and GSP could be structured such that the GSA is responsible for the subbasin-wide SGMA responsibilities (e.g., planning, monitoring, reporting) and that the constituent local agencies are responsible for other localized actions.

Key JPA or contract terms to consider

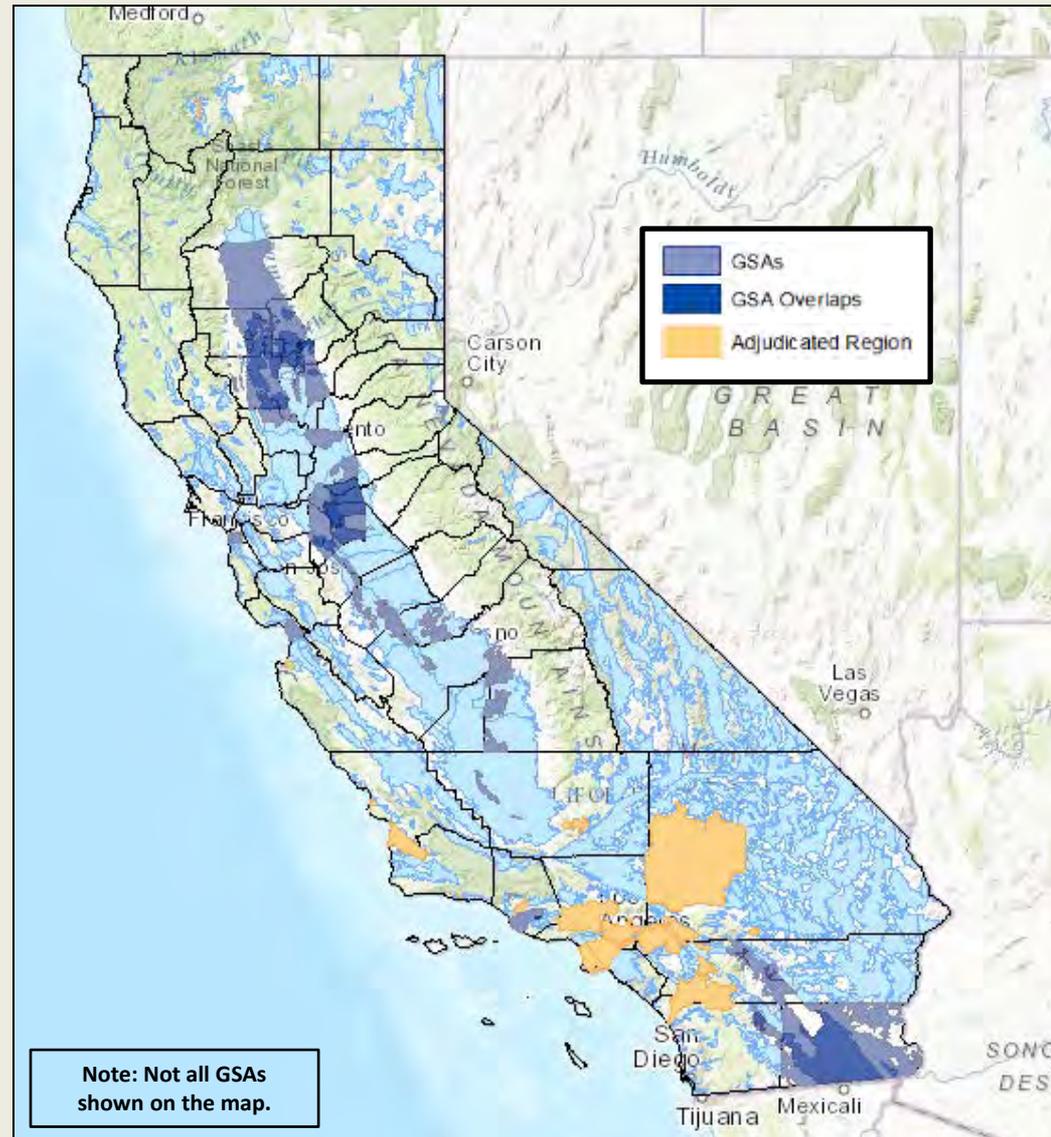
- Board structure, governance and voting
- Allocation of costs and funding
- Delegation of authority and powers
- GSP preparation and adoption
- GSP implementation and enforcement
- Dispute resolution
- Term, termination and withdrawal

Status of GSA Formations (April 25, 2016)



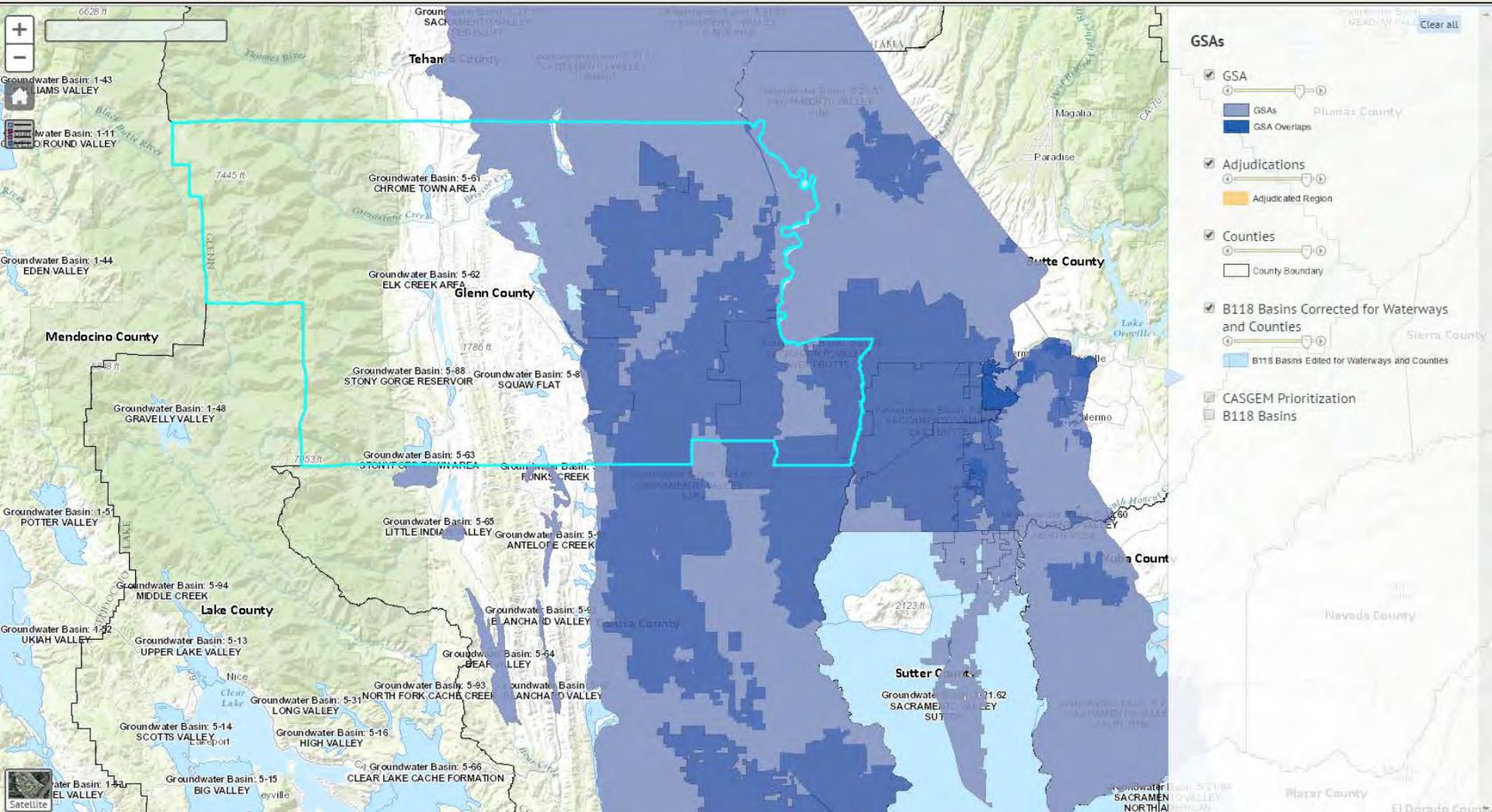
- Many GSAs have submitted for multiple basins in multiple counties
- **82** separate GSA formation notices have been submitted
 - **49** have overlap in one or more basins that must be resolved (60%)
 - **19** are “Exclusive GSAs” in one or more basins (23%)
 - **12** have an active 90-day period in one or more basins
 - **4** have been determined incomplete
- **69** basins have GSAs
 - **39** basins are high- or medium-priority
 - **30** basins are low- or very-low priority
- **25** counties have GSAs

<http://water.ca.gov/groundwater/sgm/gsa.cfm>



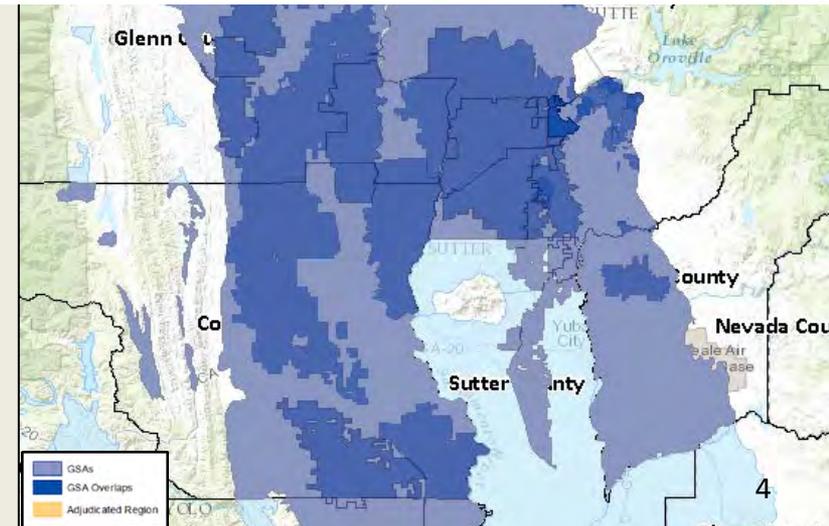
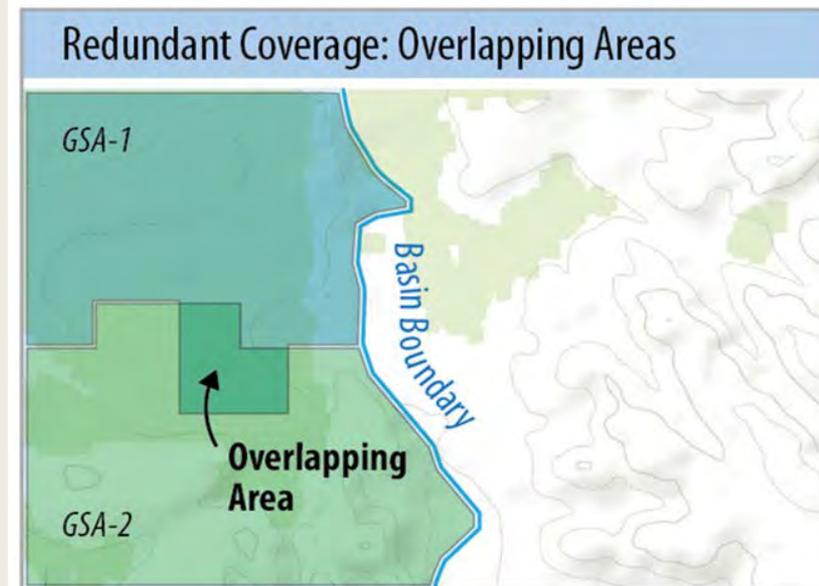


GSAs in Glenn County



GSA Formation Issues – Overlapping Service Area Boundaries

- 49 GSA notices have service area overlap in one or more basins.
 - Much of the overlap occurred prior to Senate Bill 13 being passed in 2015.
 - Many of the recent GSA formations have coordinated and do not have overlap (yet).
- A GSA does not become an “Exclusive GSA” until the overlap gets resolved.
- If the GSA overlap does not get resolved by June 30, 2017, then the State Board may intervene.
 - Groundwater extraction reporting will be required in the un-managed areas.
 - The State Board may assess fees.
- GSA notices must be withdrawn or modified to resolve the overlap.





GSA Formation – §10723.8(c)

Overlapping GSA Service Areas

- *The decision to become a GSA shall take effect 90 days after the department posts notice under subdivision (b) if no other local agency submits a notification under subdivision (a) of its intent to undertake groundwater management in all or a portion of the same area [basin or subbasin].*
- *If another notification is filed within the 90-day period, the decision shall not take effect unless the other notification is withdrawn or modified to eliminate any overlap in the areas proposed to be managed.*
- *The local agencies shall seek to reach agreement to allow prompt designation of a GSA.*
- *If agreement is reached involving a material change from the information in the posted notice, a new notification shall be submitted under subdivision (a) and the department shall post notice under subdivision (b).*



GSA Formation

“Exclusive GSA” and “Service Area”

PRE-SB 13 – §10723.8(b)

Except as provided in subdivision (d), 90 days following the posting of the notice pursuant to this section, the GSA shall be presumed the exclusive GSA within the area of the basin the agency is managing as described in the notice, provided that no other notice was submitted.

SB 13 – §10723.8(d)

Except as provided in subdivisions (e) and (f), after the decision to be a GSA takes effect, the GSA shall be presumed to be the exclusive GSA within the area of the basin within the service area of the local agency that the local agency is managing as described in the notice.



DWR's GSA Website Information

<http://water.ca.gov/groundwater/sgm/gsa.cfm>

- GSA Frequently Asked Questions
- GSA Formation Guidelines
- November 2015 webinar
- Summary of:
 - DWR's role in GSA formation
 - Local agency's role
 - County's role
 - State Board intervention
- GSA Formation Table
 - Links to all GSA notices received
- GSA Interactive Map
 - Shapefiles of GSA areas
- GSA Notice Revisions

SGM Sustainable Groundwater Management

Groundwater Sustainability Agencies

- DWR has developed GSA Frequently Asked Questions
- DWR has updated its GSA Formation Notification Guidelines for Local Agencies
- DWR has updated the GSA Formation Table

The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) established a new structure for managing California's groundwater resources at a local level by local agencies. SGMA requires, by June 30, 2017, the formation of locally-controlled groundwater sustainability agencies (GSAs) in the State's high- and medium-priority groundwater basins and subbasins (basins). A GSA is responsible for developing and implementing a groundwater sustainability plan (GSP) to meet the sustainability goal of the basin to ensure that it is operated within its sustainable yield, without causing undesirable results. The Department of Water Resources (DWR) is required to develop and adopt emergency regulations for evaluating GSPs, the implementation of GSPs, and coordination agreements by June 1, 2016.

A GSP may be any of the following (Water Code § 10727(b)):

- A single plan covering the entire basin developed and implemented by one GSA.
- A single plan covering the entire basin developed and implemented by multiple GSAs.
- Subject to Water Code Section 10727.8, multiple plans implemented by multiple GSAs and coordinated pursuant to a single coordination agreement that covers the entire basin.

DWR's Role in GSA Formation

Senate Bill (SB) 13 changed DWR's role with respect to reviewing, posting, and tracking GSA formation notices. These changes relate to, notification completeness reviews; overlapping GSA boundaries; and service area boundaries. For more information see DWR's [GSA Frequently Asked Questions](#). Also, DWR developed and has revised its [GSA Formation Notification Guidelines for Local Agencies](#) which outlines the information that must be submitted by a local agency(s) after it decides to become or form a GSA(s). DWR will use these GSA guidelines to perform completeness reviews for all GSA notices filed after January 1, 2016. Only complete GSA formation notices will be posted on DWR's [GSA Formation Table](#) and included on DWR's [GSA Interactive Map](#). The following summarizes DWR's approach and responsibilities with respect to GSA formation:

- DWR shall post all complete GSA formation notices received on its website within 15 days of receipt. (Water Code §10723.8(b))
- A complete GSA formation notice includes all of the following (Water Code §10723.8(g))
 - ❑ Information that clearly shows the GSA formation notice was submitted to DWR within 30 days of the decision to become or form a GSA.
 - ❑ The service area boundaries, the boundaries of the basin or portion of the basin the agency intends to manage, and identification of any other agencies managing or proposing to manage groundwater within the basin.
 - ❑ A copy of the resolution or legal agreement forming the new agency.
 - ❑ A copy of any new bylaws, ordinances, or new authorities adopted by the local agency.
 - ❑ A list of interested parties developed pursuant to Water Code §10723.2 and an explanation of how their interests will be considered in the development and operation of the GSA and the development and implementation of the agency's sustainability plan.
- DWR will not post incomplete GSA formation notices.
- If two or more local agencies separately decide to become GSAs in all or a portion of the same area of a basin and create overlap (within 90-days of the initial posted notice), then no exclusive GSA will be identified by DWR until the overlap is resolved. (Water Code §10723.8(c) and (d))
- Only exclusive GSAs can coordinate to develop a GSP for a basin and submit that GSP to DWR for review.
- DWR has a [Facilitation Support Services](#) program that helps local agencies work through challenging institutional and technical situations.

DWR hosted a 90-minute webinar in November 2015 to address the SB 13 amendments to SGMA as they pertain to the formation of a GSA. The following information is available for use by local agencies and the public:

- [GSA Formation Notification Guidelines for Local Agencies](#) (revised 01/05/2016)

GROUNDWATER HOME

SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT

- Basin Boundary Modifications
 - BBAT - Basin Boundary Assessment Tool
 - BMRS - Basin Boundary Modification Review System

- Groundwater Sustainability Agencies
 - GSA Formation Table
 - GSA Interactive Map
 - GSA Notice Revisions

- Groundwater Sustainability Plan Regulations
 - Best Management Practices
- Critically Overdrafted Basins
 - Public Comments

- Initial Basin Prioritization
- Communication and Outreach
 - Advisory Groups
 - Statewide SIGMA Calendar
 - Region Office Contacts
 - Subscribe for Email Updates

- Resources
 - Water Mgmt. Planning Tool
 - SGWP Grant Program
 - Facilitation Support Services
 - SGMA Definitions
 - Related Links
 - SGM Archive

GROUNDWATER INFORMATION CENTER

- CASGEM
- BULLETIN 118

