

Glenn County Sustainable Groundwater Management Act Implementation Proposed Common Principles

Introduction

The purpose of developing common principles for Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) implementation is to identify common statements that eligible GSAs can support as a starting point in the GSA formation process. Common principles are intended to reflect common themes and to hold eligible GSAs accountable to common commitments that are made through the process. These principles help participants find common understanding and avoid misconceptions. They help participants create focused and consistent messages that can be communicated to all stakeholders in Glenn County and neighboring areas.

Proposed Process for Glenn County GSA Formation

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.
- Glenn County represents / manages all groundwater conditions outside another managed area
- Each GSA must consider the interests of all beneficial uses and users of groundwater throughout the county. This can include a range of involvement methods.

Proposed Common Principle Themes

1. Ensure local control of groundwater resources

- Avoid State intervention
- Develop an approach conducive to groundwater management to ensure basin-wide sustainability
- Establish systems and enact methods to resolve differences
- GSAs must self-identify by June 30, 2017
- GSPs must be developed by January 31, 2022 in Glenn County

2. Foster a partnered approach to establish one or more cost-effective and manageable GSAs

- Pool resources
- Avoid duplication of efforts and fees
- Capitalize on skills and strengths of various partners/build on existing partnerships
- Ensure shared understanding of groundwater authorities and responsibilities under SGMA
- Be collaboratively responsible to achieve groundwater resources management objectives and goals

3. Reflect local interests and acknowledge differences

- Honor the common and unique interests of diverse groundwater users
- Seek opportunities to achieve sustainable groundwater conditions that support and balance a vital agricultural economy, industrial uses, domestic, and public water uses
- Acknowledge that variable groundwater conditions exist throughout the county and require stakeholders to manage the diversity in order to achieve sustainability
- Ensure that data supports governance decisions

4. Seek mutual understanding regarding the impact of GSA formation on water accessibility

- Ensure sufficient and affordable groundwater availability to meet multiple uses
- Maintain and support existing surface water rights
- Pursue solutions to increase groundwater availability, recharge through sound groundwater use, and achieve sufficient and affordable surface water, where possible

Comment [CT1]: Perhaps make these a notation rather than bullets.

DRAFT

