

# DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

## GROUNDWATER PROGRAMS & SGMA UPDATES

AUGUST 1, 2019



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# OVER VIEW

SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT ACT (SGMA)  
BASIN BOUNDARY MODIFICATIONS & BASIN PRIORITIZATION  
TECHNICAL SERVICES/FACILITATION SERVICES  
GSPS AND ALTERNATE PLANS

PROPOSITION 1 & 68

DWR UPDATES

FUTURE PRESENTATIONS – LOCAL GW UPDATES



# SGMA

## Basin Boundary Modifications (BBM)

- 517 Basins in SGMA (and CASGEM)
- Geologic or Jurisdictional Modifications
- Phase I – 2016, Phase II- 2018 - 57 basins approved for modification
- Next BBM period “is not scheduled and is not anticipated prior to 2022”

## Basin Prioritization follows BBM

Draft Results from Phase II released and expected to be finalized by summer 2019.

- 94 medium and high priority basins (PBs) – down from 127; >98% Basins managed by GSA
- <https://water.ca.gov/Programs/Groundwater-Management/Basin-Prioritization>
- <https://water.ca.gov/Programs/Groundwater-Management/Basin-Boundary-Modifications>
- Groundwater Basin Boundary Assessment Tool (BBAT)
  - [gis.water.ca.gov/app/bbat](https://gis.water.ca.gov/app/bbat)

### Basin Prioritization

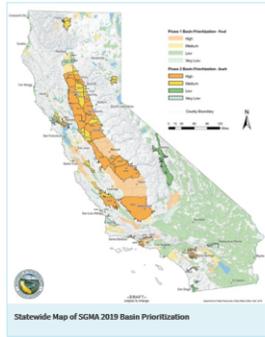
California's 517 groundwater basins are classified into one of four categories; high-, medium-, low-, or very low-priority based on components identified in the California Water Code Section 10933(b).

Basin priority determines which provisions of California Statewide Groundwater Elevation Monitoring (CASGEM) and the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) apply in a basin. During the prioritization process, the best available datasets and information are applied in a consistent, statewide manner in accordance with the provisions in the California Water Code.

DWR was first directed to prioritize basins as part of the Groundwater Monitoring legislation enacted in California's 2009 Comprehensive Water Package. DWR prioritized groundwater basins through the CASGEM Program and released the results in 2014.

In 2015, SGMA went into effect and required DWR to prioritize basins when basin boundaries are modified. In 2015, DWR used the 2014 CASGEM Basin Prioritization as the initial SGMA basin prioritization.

In 2016, DWR received 54 requests for basin boundary modifications. DWR released the final groundwater basin boundaries, which incorporated numerous statewide jurisdictional and scientific modifications. In December 22, 2016, DWR published Bulletin 118 Interim Update 2016, which included the



### Basin Boundary Modifications

The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) established a process for local agencies to ask DWR to revise the boundaries of existing groundwater basins or subbasins, including establishing new subbasins. We developed the Basin Boundary Emergency Regulations after extensive outreach to SGMA advisory groups, partners, local agencies, and members of the public. The Basin Boundary Emergency Regulations were adopted on October 21, 2015 and the provisions of the emergency regulation went into effect on November 16, 2015.

After the Basin Boundary Emergency Regulations were adopted DWR provided an online Basin Boundary Assessment Tool (BBAT) to inform local agencies and the public about the existing Bulletin 118 groundwater basins and other relevant geologic and geographic data. DWR's Basin Boundary Modification Request System (BBMRS) enabled local agencies to submit their requests for Basin Boundary Modifications online and the public to view those requests and public comments.

2018 Final Modifications    2016 Final Modifications    Regulations

The Final 2018 Basin Boundary Modifications were developed after a technical review of the basin boundary modification requests and public comments. DWR held a public meeting and a public presentation to the California Water Commission to present the Draft Basin Boundary Modifications and technical review process. The Final Basin Boundary Modifications were released February 11, 2019.

#### Access the Results



Groundwater Basin Boundary



Static Map

# SGMA

## TECHNICAL AND FACILITATION SUPPORT SERVICES

### TECHNICAL SUPPORT

- DWR program supporting GSAs as they develop their GSPs
  - Through regional offices (or contractors) pending funding availability
  - Colusa was 1<sup>st</sup> app statewide (for a monitoring well)
  - Downhole video, WQ sampling, GWL measurement training, data loggers, etc.
- Provide education, data, tools
  - DWR Forums, [gis.water.ca.gov](http://gis.water.ca.gov), SVSIM, C2VSim, SGMA portal

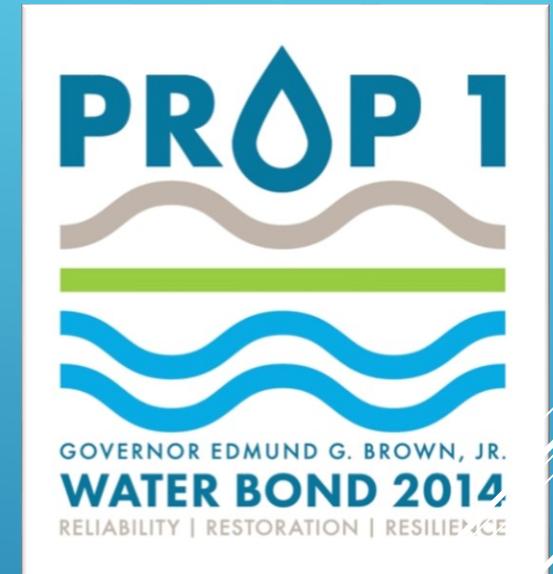
### FACILITATION SUPPORT

- Helps local agencies work through challenging water management situations
- Services Offered through DWR-funded Professional Facilitators
  - Identification and engagement of interested parties
  - Meeting facilitation
  - Interest-based negotiation/consensus building
  - Public outreach facilitation

The logo for the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). It features the letters "SGMA" in a large, bold, blue sans-serif font. Below this, the full name "Sustainable Groundwater Management Act" is written in a smaller, blue sans-serif font. The logo is set against a white rectangular background.

**SGMA**  
Sustainable Groundwater Management Act

- ▶ Provides funding for implementation projects that meet the intent of Proposition 1, Chapter 7
  - ▶ adapt to climate change; provide incentives for water agencies throughout each watershed to collaborate in managing the region's water resources and setting regional priorities for water infrastructure; and improve regional water self-reliance while reducing reliance on the Sac – San Joaquin Delta
- ▶ DWR released the Proposition 1 - Round 1 IRWM Implementation Grant Program Final Proposal Solicitation Package (PSP) and Final 2019 IRWM Guidelines on April 22
- ▶ Competitive basis in at least two funding rounds, ~\$100M to DWR
- ▶ Must coordinate through their established IRWM Regional Water Management Group, and the Regional Group must in turn coordinate with other groups within the Proposition 1 IRWM Funding Area



# PROPOSITION 1 IRWM GRANT PROGRAM

- ▶ \$46.25M to DWR for competitive grants to GSAs (or representatives) to develop GSPs
- ▶ ~\$90M to DWR for competitive grants to GSAs (or representatives) for projects that help implement a GSP. Projects may include:
  - ▶ Groundwater recharge with surface water, storm water, or recycled water
  - ▶ Other conjunctive use projects
  - ▶ Prevent/remediate/clean contaminated GW that serves as a source of drinking water



# PROPOSITION 68 GSP FUNDING

# ALTERNATIVE TO GSPS

DWR Alternative Plan Reviews Release:

<https://water.ca.gov/Programs/Groundwater%20Management/SGMA-Groundwater-Management/Alternatives>

9 approved, others not approved including Big Valley (Lake County) and Eel River (Humboldt County)

Unapproved Plans – need to form a GSA and have Priority for Prop 68 Funding for GSPs

Critically Over-drafted Basins – GSP submittals due by the end of 2019

Review DWR GSP Guidance Documents- Annotated Outline and Preparation Checklist

## Alternatives to Groundwater Sustainability Plans

The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) requires local agencies throughout California to sustainably manage groundwater basins. Basins ranked as medium- or high-priority are required to develop groundwater sustainability plans (GSPs) or submit an alternative to a GSP by the applicable statutory deadline. Alternatives should demonstrate how water managers have already achieved or will achieve sustainable groundwater management.

An alternative, per [Water Code Section 10733.6 \(b\)](#), may be any of the following:

1. An existing groundwater management plan.
2. Groundwater management pursuant to an adjudication.
3. An analysis of basin conditions demonstrating operations within the basin's sustainable yield for at least 10 years with no undesirable results, which occurs when any of the following sustainability indicators become significant and unreasonable: chronic lowering of groundwater levels, reduction of groundwater storage, seawater intrusion, degraded water quality, land subsidence, and depletions of interconnected surface water.

## Requirements for Approval

Alternatives underwent extensive technical review by Department staff to confirm they met the following standards:

- Alternatives must achieve the same outcome as a GSP, which is sustainable groundwater management for the basin.
- Alternatives must have been submitted by January 1, 2017, cover the entire basin, and be complete. Basins covered by an alternative must also comply with existing groundwater monitoring law.
- Alternatives based on a 10-year sustainable yield analysis must demonstrate the absence of undesirable results.
- Alternatives based on an existing groundwater management plan must demonstrate that implementation of the plan is likely to achieve sustainability within 20 years.

Alternative assessments are listed below and link to documents associated with the decisions. Original submissions and public comments can be viewed on the [SGMA Portal](#).

Next Steps

# RECENT DWR UPDATES

## **RSVP FOR GSP REPORTING SYSTEM WORK SHOPS**

- ASSISTANCE FOR THOSE SUBMITTING GSPS
- IN PERSON – FRESNO/BAKERSFIELD, WEBCAST AUG 22<sup>ND</sup>

Save the Date – DWR Climate Change Summit – September 16

Bulletin 118 – Online Survey – how is it used and how can it be improved?