

**Glenn Groundwater Authority
Board of Directors Meeting**

Sustainable Groundwater Management Act



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Presentation Outline

- **Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) Background**
 - Legislative Goals
 - Key Milestones
 - What is Sustainability
 - What lies ahead (120 Day Plan +/-)
- **Regulations**
 - Key Features
 - Plan Contents - Notice and Communication

SGMA Background - Legislative Goals

- Set minimum standards for sustainable groundwater management
- Give local agencies tools needed to sustainably manage groundwater
- Increase groundwater storage
- Provide opportunity for local control
- Prevent deterioration of water quality
- Preserve existing groundwater rights

SGMA Background - Key Milestones

- Target date for sustainable conditions
 - January 1, 2015
- Prop 1 Project Solicitation Package (PSP) for Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSP)
 - November 13, 2017
- Basin Boundary Modification Round 2
 - Tentatively 2018

SGMA Background - Key Milestones

- Colusa Subbasin GSP
 - Completed Plan - January 31, 2022
 - Sustainability Achieved - 2042
 - Annual Reporting
 - Submitted to DWR by April 1 of each year following the adoption of the GSP. Requires significant subbasin water use, availability and storage information
 - Five-Year Evaluation
 - Written assessment provided to DWR describing whether GSP implementation is meeting the sustainability goals in the basin

SGMA Background - 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 - “120 Day Plan”

- Immediate Decision-Making
 - GSP Approach
 - GSP Schedule/Workplan
 - PSP Authoring and Fiscal Agent
 - GSA(s)Committee Formation
 - RFP Authoring
 - Technical Proposal Review

SGMA Background - “120 Day Plan”

- Immediate Decision-Making
 - Consultant Interview and Selection
 - Technical Study Review and Approval
 - GSA and Inter-Basin Coordination
 - Public Engagement Events
 - Cost Allocation and Funding Decisions

SGMA Background - After 120 Days

- Defensible characterization of Subbasin conditions
- Identification of Management Areas (if warranted)
- Develop actions to address Undesirable Results
- Ongoing public engagement with Beneficial Users
- Potential fee assessment / Prop 218

SGMA Background - Stakeholders

Beneficial Uses / Users

- 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 ground water*)

Regulatory Requirements

GSP Regulations

- Data Management
- Basin Setting and Conditions
 - Land Use
 - Water Use
 - Water Supply
 - Management Areas

Regulatory Requirements

GSP Regulations

- Sustainable Management Criteria
 - Sustainability Goals
 - Minimum Thresholds
 - Management Objectives
- Monitoring
- Projects and Management Actions

Regulatory Requirements

§ 354.10. Plan Contents - Notice and Communication

Each Plan shall include a summary of information relating to notification and communication by the Agency with other agencies and interested parties including the following:

- (a) A description of the beneficial uses and users of groundwater in the basin, including the land uses and property **interests potentially affected by the use of groundwater** in the basin, the **types of parties representing those interests**, and the **nature of consultation with those parties**.
- (b) A list of public meetings at which the Plan was discussed or considered by the Agency.
- (c) Comments regarding the Plan received by the Agency and a summary of any responses by the Agency.

Regulatory Requirements

§ 354.10. Notice and Communication (continued)

(d) A communication section of the Plan that includes the following:

- (1) **An explanation of the Agency's decision-making process.**
- (2) Identification of opportunities for public engagement and a discussion of **how public input and response will be used.**
- (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) The method the Agency shall follow to inform the public about progress implementing the Plan, including the status of projects and actions.

Regulatory Requirements

- How will you describe “interests”
- Do you know what that means and what DWR is looking for?
- Do you know who represents those interests?
 - Are you sure?
- Do you know what “the nature of consultation” means and how to describe it?
- How will you describe your decision-making process (see slides 4-9)

Regulatory Requirements

- How will public input and response be used?
 - What happens if the public input is poorly informed? How do you use it?
 - What happens if responses are inconsistent with GSA member interests?
- What is your plan to “encourage the active involvement of diverse elements in the basin”?

THANK YOU

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