

## MEETING SUMMARY | July 14, 2016

### Glenn Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) – Governance Workgroup Meeting #3

#### MEETING RECAP

- Sacramento State University, Center for Collaborative Policy (Center) Facilitator Dave Ceppos provided updates on Colusa County and West Butte Basin SGMA implementation activities. He gave an overview of outreach to eligible Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) local agencies and introduced a proposed scope of work to develop baseline water budgets.
- Meeting attendees discussed Glenn County SGMA Common Principles and formed a subcommittee to refine the draft document for the next SGMA workgroup meeting.
- County Supervisors shared their vision of the County's role in SGMA implementation. Meeting attendees shared their visions of agency roles and thoughts regarding two general governance structures: County-led or County partnership.
- Meeting attendees discussed sustainability conditions to determine which indicators will be drivers in governance formation.

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

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

#### MEETING SUMMARY

##### Introduction

Dave Ceppos (facilitator) introduced himself and explained that the Center is working with the Colusa Subbasin entities which include portions of Glenn and Colusa Counties. Yolo County applied for a basin boundary modification for an adjustment to the county line between Yolo and Colusa County which has been approved. The facilitator welcomed everyone to the meeting and reviewed the agenda. While meetings are currently happening in a county-centric way, it will be important to begin basin-wide coordination in the near future. He encouraged active participation and emphasized that it is important for the development of governance to reflect the voices in the room. The facilitator then invited attendees to introduce themselves.

##### General Updates

The facilitator indicated there is not a single way governance is being developed statewide. The design of governance in this area is taking shape by focusing on current groundwater conditions and identifying issues as they pertain to the sustainability indicators defined by the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) regulations.

Lisa Hunter provided an update regarding a proposed draft scope of work to develop baseline water budgets in Glenn County. The subunits would be based on GSA eligible entity boundaries and Bulletin 118 basin boundaries. This would be similar to work done in Colusa County to provide a consistent methodology for SGMA implementation throughout the basin. A grant will

cover some of the costs, but cooperating agencies and the County will likely contribute additional funds to the effort.

The facilitator provided an update on Colusa County SGMA implementation. The Colusa work group will meet on July 15, 2016. The meeting will focus on technical work presented by Grant Davids, Davids Engineering, to cultivate mutual understanding of the current conditions that may influence governance formation. The facilitator reviewed the timeline for the GSP regulations that were finalized in June 2016. The Colusa County Private Pumper Advisory Committee (PPAC) has been meeting and will advise the County for the “white areas.” The PPAC will also come forward with a proposal about how private pumpers would like to be included in SGMA governance.

The West Butte Subbasin contains portions of Glenn, Colusa, and Butte Counties. The facilitator has reached out to the Butte County facilitator to begin West Butte Subbasin coordination.

- Comment: The Corning Subbasin is not being addressed, but will require coordination. Response: The facilitator will schedule a meeting with Ryan Teubert, Tehama County Water Resources Coordinator, Lisa Hunter, and the facilitation team to begin coordination discussions.

Glenn County sent letters to all known GSA eligible agencies to encourage their participation in the working group meetings. The facilitator reiterated that it is important to be in this room and at this table to represent your interests which will ultimately be reflected in the decisions made through this group. The County is responsible for any area that is not covered by another eligible entity. The County has a unique responsibility regarding “white areas.” A county can opt out, however, Glenn County has expressed that it will fulfill its responsibility. Many “white areas” in Glenn County are in a checkerboard pattern, making it more difficult to describe the areas the County will represent. Ultimately, the County will need to know if eligible entities plan to participate in GSA governance.

Ms. Hunter shared that she received positive feedback about the outreach letters and some of those agencies are participating in today’s meeting. The purpose of the letters was to encourage early participation by the agencies and to create a venue to discuss and determine their future roles for SGMA implementation. Ms. Hunter made follow up phone calls to agencies that had not responded to the letter or participated in earlier meetings. The facilitator advised the County to set a date in the near future to ask agencies whether they are opting in or out so the County will know who it will represent.

- Question: Will the County redraw its maps and withdraw the overlap area? Response: The County will have to decide. That is part of the challenge for the County to draw its footprint to include the “checkerboard” areas. The State will want to know that every square inch of the basin is covered, and eventually must be mapped.
- Question: Can an agency be selective about its activity and level of participation? Response: Yes.

- Comment: The RCD would enjoy participation by teaming up with other agencies.

The facilitator mentioned that the Working Group Meeting Summary #2 is available and posted on the [County Water Resources Webpage](#).

### **Glenn County SGMA Common Principles**

The facilitator gave a brief overview of the purpose of Common Principles. The principles set a framework for future leadership and expectations. They also provide an opportunity for agencies to determine whether their interests can be met and reflected through a set of common goals, or if their interests would not be met collectively, at which point, they may choose another option. He encouraged participants to provide comments on the draft Common Principles. *See Appendices.*

### **Open Discussion**

- Comment: It would be helpful if the Common Principles were sent out more in advance.
- Comment: The list looks great, and is a great starting point, but the first two items under 3, would be more powerful if it established priorities. The meeting participant thought the wording was too soft. Not all functions are equal. Life sustaining value of water for people would be first priority, followed by agriculture and industry. If priorities could be established, and the City of Orland felt its needs could be met, it may choose a different role in SGMA governance.
- Comment: The definitions of Sustainability according to the regulations should be added to the Common Principles.
- Comment: Under Item 4, maintain and support existing surface water rights should also mention affordability. Response: How would you define affordability? Follow-up Response: It would be hard to tell someone in a district they are required to use surface water when their neighbor can turn on their well at a lower cost. Just because someone has access to surface water doesn't mean that is all they should be allowed to use. There is a cost associated with that.
- Comment: Environmental needs should be mentioned in the document. (Example: water in streams)
- Comment: Reflect the importance of governance in this process.
- Comment: The participant agreed with the previous comment regarding the importance surface water plays in groundwater management, especially as it relates to irrigation systems. Education is very important. Also, it may be difficult for a county to make a statement to prioritize water use due to varying uses and conditions throughout the basin. Response: Within a subbasin one or more GSAs may be formed. The Colusa Subbasin has more noticed GSAs than anywhere else in the state. There are different reasons why the agencies chose to notice. Some may be an individual GSA, some may choose to be a multi-agency GSA. Overlaps must be reconciled prior to June 2017. It is important to recognize that no agency can compel another agency to be or not to be a GSA.

- Question: Common Principles #3 acknowledges that variable groundwater conditions exist throughout the county and require stakeholders to manage the diversity in order to achieve sustainability—how do you propose to do that with one group? Response: The facilitator reviewed the potential use of Management Areas, which is defined in the regulations to help achieve this goal. He also encouraged everyone to read the statute and the regulations.
- Comment: If too many restrictions are placed on agriculture, it runs the risk of shutting down production agriculture. The participant expressed concern that it feels like a “taking” of a private property right. It is important to understand that individuals need to make a living. Response: The group could add another statement to the Common Principles that would capture the importance of agriculture. Yolo County has some specific statements that could be used as an example. Follow-up Response: The participant is concerned that once the plan is written, there will not be an opportunity to make changes. It may not be right the first time.
- Comment: Actively seek to avoid any immediate actions that would implement large changes that would upset the economic balance in a short period of time. Response: The regulations allow for a plan to include adaptive management. What we know now versus what we will know in ten years is very different and what is learned may change management strategies. It may be beneficial to add something that captures the idea that what is learned will guide future decisions.
- Comment: It is hard enough to get the group together the first time. It may be very difficult to make changes later. Response: Local control is key. Changes will be made by a governing board.
- Question: What is the interface between the potential GSAs? Who is the arbiter between the agencies? If primary goals between agencies do not align, how does that process work? Response: There are requirements in the statute to create legal agreements between the agencies called coordination agreements. If there are multiple plans, the plans must be coordinated. The agreements should outline that process.
- Comment: The end goal is to get a GSP based on data to the state. If agencies choose to create multiple plans, all the plans have to integrate.

The facilitator asked the group if they wanted to form a subcommittee to further develop the Common Principles document prior to the next working group meeting. He asked the participants to think about the suggestion, and he would revisit the subject later in the meeting.

### **Proposed SGMA Roles and Vision**

The facilitator invited the Glenn County Supervisors to share the County’s vision for SGMA governance and implementation.

Supervisor McDaniel shared that he feels the state is looking for a single point of contact. The responsibility of the entire land area falls to the County. He feels that the County should be the overarching GSA with subordinate agencies or GSAs that would encourage local control over

individual areas. The County has unique abilities as a public agency including enforcement, land use, and the general plan. It is anticipated that eventually there will need to be an assessment, and the County could be the collecting agency and distribute the funds to the local implementing agencies. Some other agencies may not want to collect fees, and this would provide a buffer for the local managers who may be uncomfortable increasing fees. The County would also shoulder the major liability. Even if there are multiple GSAs, all the “white areas” must be covered by the County. The state wants to see collaboration. He feels that having the overarching structure would prove to be more successful for grants and other programs.

Supervisor McDaniel added that he also thinks the County would be a good fit for a lead agency with potential land use and zoning requirements in the future. This would create a coordinated policy throughout the county. These responsibilities are unique to the County. The County also has GIS mapping capabilities. Currently, the County does not have the ability to do all the work necessary for a successful GSP and will require assistance from others. Consistent management and policy is key. If there is a failure to meet the SGMA requirements in the region, he feels that the State would look to the County to fix it.

Supervisor Viegas elaborated that SGMA is a mandate and if we don’t do it, the State will. This area must join together as a team. Each agency should be responsible to run their own business, but the State is saying the County shall be responsible.

- Comment: The overlap in GSAs has negated everything, and if an agreement is not reached the State will step in, and the County will have created that issue. This must be resolved.

Supervisor Viegas continued that members of the public come to the Board of Supervisors when they have water issues. He reiterated that we all have to work together to solve this. What do we do with the private pumpers? Would it be helpful to form a PPAC (Private Pumpers Advisory Committee) like in Colusa County? There are also issues with the Delta, and we have to look at that too. There are misconceptions regarding export of groundwater and mandates and regulation for flow requirements from the State. Do we form some sort of subcommittee? Is the Water Advisory Committee (WAC)/Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) still the right committee, or do they need to be revamped for this process? We need to start looking at the governance diagram and determine how we want to form that. All the plans must be brought together and work together. If there is a problem with an individual agency, there needs to be a way to address it.

The facilitator asked the Supervisors if they envision the County as the overarching GSA (County-lead), a part of different GSAs, or a single multi-agency GSA. Supervisor McDaniel indicated that he is only one of a five member board, and more discussion would need to happen at the full Board level. However, he feels that the overarching County-led GSA or a broad multi-agency JPA would be appropriate. If the County was the lead agency, he feels it would also be able to shoulder the responsibility which may be attractive to some of the other eligible agencies.

The facilitator asked the other participants for questions or comments regarding the vision presented by the County Supervisors. He encouraged eligible agencies to share how they feel about a County lead option or County partner option.

- Comment: The County bears the responsibility of protecting the resource, the health, safety, and welfare of all, and to maintain sustainability.
- Comment: We need to look at how we would be organized. We need capacity and resources. We must consider the practicality of what it takes to organize this effort.
- Comment: What is the cost factor? There are initial costs and perhaps some reimbursement through an assessment of a bond. Is that a big issue? Response: Yes. There are some grant funds available, mostly for start-up costs. Glenn County was awarded initial Proposition 1 funding. There is approximately \$83 million left for SGMA implementation to support GSP development. There are 127 basins that must be managed under SGMA. \$83 million will not cover all the costs. It will be important to plan for funding initial and long term implementation efforts. Follow-up Response: The counties lobbied for the State to develop a funding mechanism to support SGMA implementation. Instead, they gave assessment and fee authority to the GSAs.
- Comment: A private pumper group sought to form a special district in order to be in the first among equals and to be on the same footing as the surface water districts and County to control their own destiny. It leaves the group the option to contract out for the services if necessary. Response: How do you feel about the multi-agency approach or the overarching County approach? Follow-up response: The participant said that nobody he has talked to wants the County to be the lead agency. They may be ok with co-agency participation. The participant expressed concerns about a priority system as discussed earlier. Ultimately, they envision their role as doing as little as possible and minimum cost. Being proactive is the only way to accomplish that goal. Response: The next ten months are for all of those discussions to be worked out. Realistically, by the end of May, all these issues must be worked out to meet the deadline.
- Comment: Another participant expressed concerns regarding the County's role. SGMA did not grant any new authorities for the County. He feels that it does not put the County in the first position, but rather, the County takes the last position to claim leftover areas. The County does not meet the sustainability requirements currently. The participant expressed concern about meeting the deadlines. He does not have confidence that the County can get the job done. The County has several documents outlining work to be done, but most of those tasks have not been completed. The participant feels that nothing has been done in the last ten years. He feels the County is asking them to trust and put their future in the County's hands. Response: Clearly, concerns have been expressed about the County being the lead. Would the participant be open to a partnered role? Follow-up response: Definitely. He stated an interest to move forward with shared benefits and tools. He is very concerned that there could be state intervention.

- Comment: 10,000 to 20,000 acres are asking to be annexed into the proposed new district. There is clearly a level of concern in the private pumper areas.
- Comment: The County is trying to maintain a Water Department to face those issues. He expressed concern that not all agencies are participating and it is difficult to get people engaged. The WAC/TAC have had some miscommunications and actions don't move forward. The County needs resources and partnerships, but it also took on the responsibility. Everyone needs to work together with all agencies and constituents. He wants to start forming the matrix to see how the plan or plans will come together so we can tell the State we have our act together and can keep the State Water Resources Control Board out. Response: The facilitator would like to further discuss the role of the private pumpers and the current sufficiency of the WAC/TAC. He asked for additional comments on the key topic of the County serving as lead or as a partner.
- Comment: The County should retract the overlap with other agencies that want to actively be a GSA. Those agencies are capable and best equipped to manage their respective areas. He is happy to coordinate with the County and with private pumpers but feels strongly that his agency wants to manage itself. His agency may also choose to partner with other agencies in their subbasin.
- Comment: Agencies know the land use and water needs and can manage their areas better. They would like to be partners with the County.

The facilitator referenced a Local Implementing Agency (LIA) Whitepaper produced by the Center which outlines a delegation of responsibility to the implementing agencies. He will ensure it is available to all participants.

- Comment: Hopefully we can manage sustainably and there will always be enough water and a balance for everyone. The reality is that there may be a shortage at some time. Prioritizing types of water use would be helpful. Where domestic water supply is used more intensely in and around the cities, agricultural wells drilled nearby threaten the domestic supply. Not all uses are created equal and domestic water use should be honored. This priority may not apply to other areas where domestic use is less intense. Perhaps this is where the Management Area concept comes into play. This is a critical issue to resolve overlap.

The facilitator suggested it would be beneficial after the structure is coming together to perform a governance stress test before it is fully operational. Once the governance outline is agreeable, the group will hypothetically test it with the most difficult, possible scenarios and see how it works.

- Comment: The City of Orland is responsible for providing water to 7,000 people which must be protected. It is important that the agricultural districts and the city work together. He expressed concern that not all water suppliers are participating. Health and safety of the residents within the city and the domestic wells outside of the city are

important. Agriculture is not causing all the issues. Agriculture also brings in surface water which helps recharge and provide water for others.

The facilitator asked the water managers if it is reasonable to imagine that under a GSP there would be water years in which water is plentiful and years in which there are hardships across all water uses and users and everyone would be compelled to make some changes. The group generally agreed in concept.

- Comment: That scenario has already happened. The State created mandatory water restrictions for water suppliers with a \$10,000 per day fine if the mandates were not met.
- Comment: Historically there have been droughts in which people focus on water shortages and dry year issues. Once the rain and floods come, the momentum stops. This needs to stick. Response: That is the point of SGMA. There are reporting requirements to ensure that the agency adheres to the standards.
- Comment: Water budgets and allocations are going to have to occur county-wide.

The facilitator suggested a statement could be added under the third bullet under Item 3 of the Common Principles document regarding water use changes depending on current conditions. In good years, enjoy the benefits, whereas, in hard years there is a collective change in behavior. The group was generally supportive of that statement.

- Comment: Regulations will fall on the County and private landowners to fund the efforts. There are too many entities deciding who is not doing a good job managing. The State is going to tell you how to manage.

The facilitator transitioned the discussion to consider the private pumpers and the WAC/TAC roles in SGMA implementation. The facilitator asked if the County would be willing to consider forming a PPAC. The one County Supervisor still in attendance indicated he thought that would be beneficial. The private pumper group needs to be brought to the table. He reiterated the importance of having participation from other agencies, but we all need to work together.

Governance must be formed in a way that provides future boards with direction and that will serve the county as a whole. It must be made to work for all. When questioned of his thoughts about whether the other supervisors might be opposed to this advisory group, he replied no. The facilitator noted an action item to address advisory group formation and composition with the Board of Supervisors before the next Governance Workgroup meeting.

- Question: Would this be a group that is advisory to the County, not other eligible GSAs? Response: Yes. How that ultimately plays out is yet to be determined. The Colusa County PPAC will be coming forward to their SGMA working group with a proposal to include the PPAC in the Governance Structure within Colusa County.

The facilitator cited the Sacramento Groundwater Authority governance structure as an example. The Authority is a JPA comprised of four entities who each designate an additional appointee.

- Comment: A JPA type structure makes the most sense from a technical standpoint.
- Comment: Is the County going to force the County-lead approach? What is the alternative? Response: The facilitator suggested that the next steps include continuing to work with County representatives to further define their anticipated role. He summarized that the eligible entities in the room have indicated they would prefer to manage their respective service areas and would like the overlap resolved.
- Comment: City of Willows would like to be a partner with Glenn County to provide SGMA services. The City does not have the resources to be a stand-alone GSA and wants to be sure their water provider, Cal Water, has a seat at the table. Response: Cal Water can be included if they are invited, as per the Senate Bill (SB) 13 amendment.

The facilitator reiterated the first, second, and third among equals hierarchy discussed in previous meetings.

### **Sustainability Conditions**

The facilitator transitioned the discussion to how SGMA defines sustainability based on six criteria. He encouraged everyone, whether they believe in the terms or not, to begin using the SGMA terms, as it is law and will be used in the GSP.

Seawater intrusion is quite likely not applicable in this region, leaving five indicators that must be addressed. Management thresholds, measurable objectives, actions, and solutions will all need to be defined in the GSP. A management threshold is the indicator that above which, you are sustainable, below which, you are not. Where you were on January 1, 2015 is the benchmark. Many questions surround these indicators. It will become important to look at which indicators apply? Which are question marks? Which are independent? Which are interrelated and/or dependent? It would be helpful to have a presentation similar to the presentation in Colusa County to help answer some of these questions.

The facilitator asked for the group to share experiences about groundwater conditions and indicators that may be present in their areas. For example, John Viegas shared earlier in the meeting that groundwater levels in his Supervisorial District were low.

- Comment: In the area between Orland and Willows on both sides of I-5, there are different problems. Some of the areas have declining groundwater levels, other parts have wells that have recovered. It is variable even within a small area. Question: Are the differences historic or use conditions or fixed hydrologic/hydrogeologic? Response: Hardened demand and economic value have an impact. Question: Have you seen any subsidence? Response: No. Question: Any well failures or collapses? Response: Wells are deeper. The groundwater levels have declined.

- Comment: Monitoring in the Western Canal area show relatively stable groundwater conditions, but they want to protect the ability to use groundwater when needed. Question: Do you have wells? Response: Yes. Question: Do you hear anything about conditions around that area? Response: In the Durham area they are worried about long term politics and would like to have a role.
- Comment: In Provident Irrigation District/Princeton-Codora-Glenn Irrigation District, both districts have wells. MBK Engineering monitors about ten wells dispersed around the area. All the wells rebounded.

The facilitator asked about water quality conditions. He reminded the group that these discussions are meant to help answer the question, “What are we going to govern?” to help determine the governance structure.

- Comment: With the earlier comment about sharing the pain, all areas have different resources. Some areas have conserved groundwater. Surface water contracts are governed by the State. When those contracts get cut, the landowners should get to use their conserved groundwater. There should be criteria to “share the pain” in a proportional way.
- Comment: There is a chromium 6 issue in Willows. Cal Water has spent a significant amount of money to remedy that. There are also some areas with nitrate contamination from agriculture, one near the Orland/Artois area, the other by Arbuckle. Question: Is the chromium 6 issue naturally occurring? Response: Yes.
- Comment: There are wells in Chico that are affected by nitrate that have been shut off. Remediation has not been successful so far. There are transducers in the Willows wells that record pumping and static levels every 15 seconds with a long period of record. The recharge water seems to help keep groundwater levels stable. There has been a very slight decline in groundwater levels, especially in the last 10 years.

The facilitator provided some clarification that the determination in the indicators is locally derived. The State is looking to the local agencies to define thresholds for sustainability indicators. The State has a few years to review the plans once they are submitted.

The facilitator then asked if there were any comments regarding salts and growing practices. There were no comments.

The facilitator asked if there were comments regarding subsidence. He indicated there is some subsidence in Colusa County and in Yolo County.

- Comment: DWR did surveys in 2004 and 2008. Last year they did some additional measurements south of Orland. There may be up to three inches of subsidence in that area. The measurements are being checked for accuracy. There is another area south of Hamilton City. The opinion of the participant is that all the surveys still have questionable results. Response: The issues are where the “don’t knows” occur. You will have to bring forward information submitting that there is or is not subsidence.

- Comment: There are also extensometers. He has not heard any reports that subsidence has been detected in those.
- Comment: Surface water contracts should be honored. The surface water is a huge plus to the economy. A lot of the problems that occur would not be a problem if they could use the surface water.

The facilitator closed the comment period by reiterating the importance of collecting the data and being comfortable bringing data to the table to answer these questions.

### **Next Steps and Closing Remarks**

The facilitator asked the participants if anyone would be willing to sit on the Common Principles Subcommittee that was discussed earlier in the meeting with the purpose of refining the Common Principles document prior to the next workgroup meeting.

- Question: Is this document focused on the Colusa Subbasin or on the entire county?  
Response: The whole county. It is applicable to all the subbasins within the county.

The participants that volunteered included:

- Sharron Ellis
- Western Canal Water District representative (to be determined)
- Ron Stilwell
- John Garner
- Marcie Skelton
- Pete Carr
- Emil Cavagnolo
- Comment: The participant spoke positively about the meeting turnout. She sees a lack of understanding about SGMA and encouraged the other participants to attend the Colusa meetings.

The facilitator closed the meeting by reminding the participants that background information including previous meeting materials are on the website. If anyone has questions, he encouraged them to call or email him.

### **Meeting Participants**

- Lance Boyd                      Provident Irrigation District/Princeton-Codora-Glenn Irrigation District
- Ted Trimble                      Western Canal Water District
- Greg Johnson                    Western Canal Water District
- Pete Carr                         City of Orland
- Geoff Fulks                      California Water Service Company
- Vickie Newlin                    Butte County Water and Resource Conservation
- Ron Stilwell

- Bill Vanderwaal Provost & Pritchard
- Anjanette Shadley Western Canal Water District
- Jim Giachino Glenn County Resource Conservation District
- Vince Minto Glenn County Board of Supervisors
- John K. Viegas Glenn County Board of Supervisors
- Leigh McDaniel Glenn County Board of Supervisors
- Mike Yalow Glenn County Resource Conservation District
- Mardy Thomas Glenn County Planning and Public Works
- Larry Domenighini City of Willows
- George Pendell Stony Creek
- Del Reimers Landowner
- Corey Richards
- April Senior
- Sharron Ellis
- Thad Bettner Glenn Colusa Irrigation District
- Ryan Teubert Tehama County Flood Control and Water Conservation District
- Dennis Clark Levee District #2
- Mary Fahey Colusa County
- Gene Massa Colusa Basin Drainage District
- John Garner Garner Law
- Michael Alves Kanawha Water District/Glide Water District
- Marcie Skelton Glenn County Ag/Air
- Matt Gomes Glenn County Planning and Public Works
- Emil Cavagnolo Orland-Artois Water District
- Erin Smith Department of Water Resources
- Terry Bressler Reclamation District #1004

**Staff**

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

**APPENDICES**

- Draft Proposed Common Principles
- Sustainability Definitions handout

## 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**

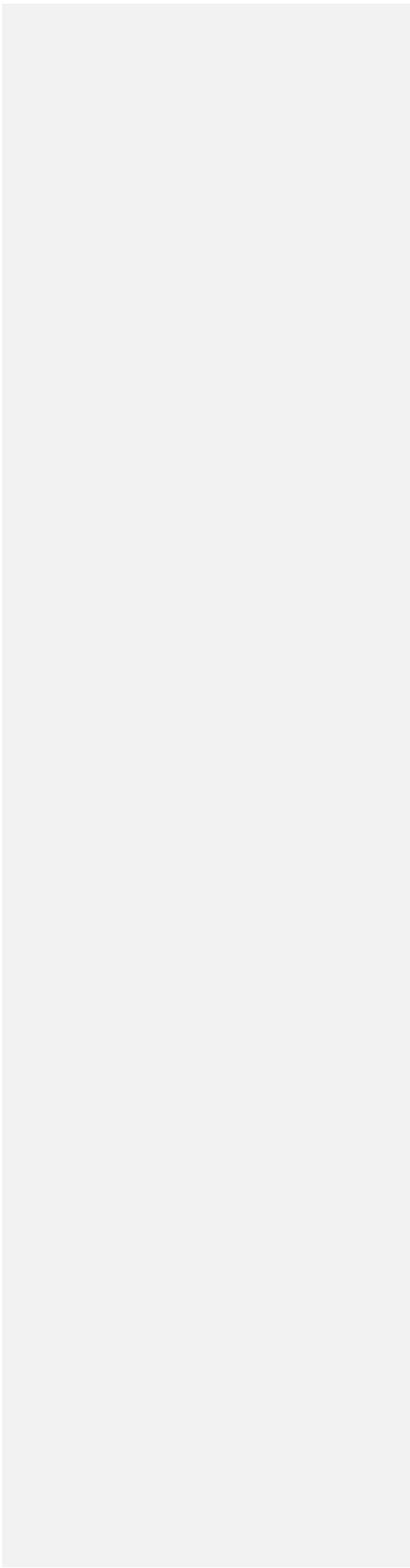
- Honor the common and unique interests of diverse groundwater users
- Seek opportunities to achieve sustainable groundwater conditions that support and balance a vital agricultural economy, industrial uses, domestic, and public water uses
- Acknowledge that variable groundwater conditions exist throughout 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



# 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