



Districts' Principles – Draft Proposal Colusa and Glenn Counties

Water 101

- How much water do I use?
- Where does it come from?
- Where could it go if I weren't using it?
- What is sustainable?

Primary Themes

- Full, locally-controlled compliance with SGMA.
- Mutual cooperation, flexibility and fiscal management.
- Respect for each member agency's discretion, governmental authority, and expertise and knowledge of its groundwater conditions, demands and concerns.
- Avoidance of “top down” planning and implementation.
- Balanced/proportionate representation of private pumpers (“white areas”) interests

Governing Principles

- Preservation of each member agency's discretion to determine whether to:
 - be a GSA individually,
 - join in a GSA created by another agency that is a member of the MOA,
 - If a separate JPA is created, to have the JPA serve as the GSA for the member's area.
- Reserve the right to withdraw from a multi agency GSA or JPA, if sustainability is not being achieved in other parts of the basin

Governing Principles

- Collaboration among member agencies to develop and implement a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) or multiple plans that will meet the law's requirements, allowing each member to approve its GSP chapter or section, and preserving the members' respective authority to manage the water resources available to their constituents or customers.

Governing Principles

- SGMA governance and implementation must avoid duplicative or conflicting governmental authorities. Each member agency will have the right to approve the provisions of the GSP governing SGMA implementation within its own boundaries and to implement SGMA within its boundaries. Subject to those limitations, each member agency retains and preserves any police powers or other authority it has to regulate groundwater use within its boundaries as long it's achieving sustainability.

Districts' Specific Principles

- Landowners within Water/Irrigation Districts (WD's/ID's) are overlying landowners and have the same overlying rights to groundwater as overlying landowners in the private pumper “white areas”.
- WD's/ID's act on behalf of and serve as trustee for all landowners within their service area. WD's/ID's will cooperate with their landowners to manage and optimize their share of the natural recharge of the Basin at the District level.

Districts' Specific Principles

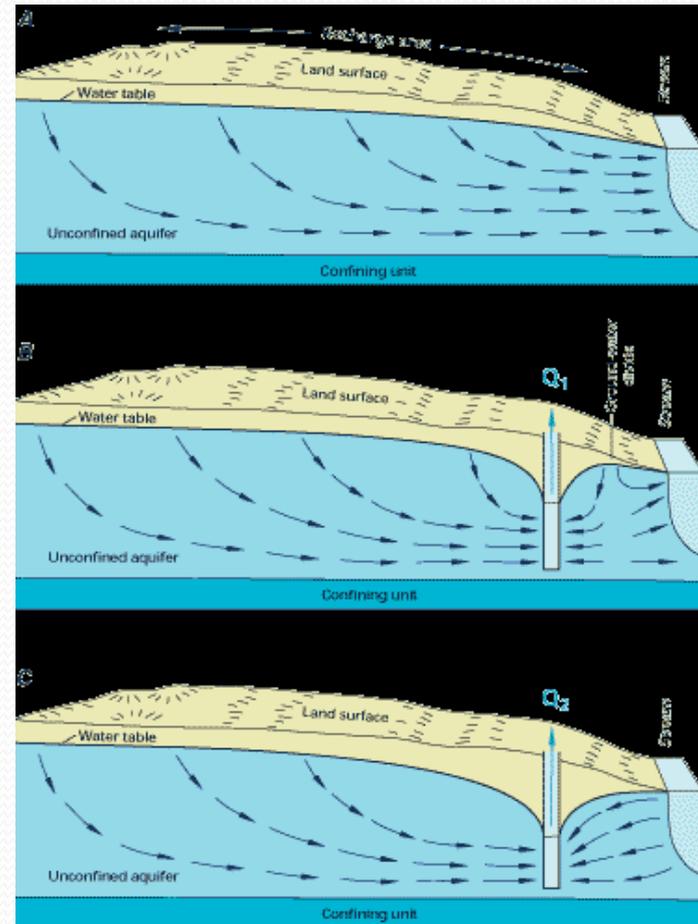
- WD's/ID's recharge the groundwater basin with surface water through leakage from canals and distribution and drainage systems and deep percolation of applied crop water. WD's/ID's may need to call on this recharged groundwater as surface supplies become more limited.

Districts' Specific Principles

- Additional flows will be needed to meet increasing environmental requirements in streams, rivers, the Bay-Delta, or for other purposes. All users have an obligation.
- Surface water Districts may be willing to meet the basin shared obligation but additional groundwater pumping may be needed

Sacramento River Flows

- Sacramento River is now a losing stream from Redding downstream
- 30-40% of Irrigation Demand is met by groundwater
- SWRCB Initiating Phase II of Bay-Delta Plan, 2010 Flow Report showed estimate of 1,000,000 AF



Districts' Specific Principles

- WD's/ID's will use surface water and groundwater for local transfers to meet local demands. Following transfers will also occur both in and outside of the groundwater basin, with transfer quantities based on avoided consumptive use. Revenue from transfers will be used by WD's/ID's to help fund their increasing surface water costs, sustainable groundwater management, infrastructure improvements, restoration activities, and other water management obligations, including SGMA, and initiatives. Surface water transfers will potentially serve as a tool to settle disputes over environmental obligations or to mitigate impacts during drought periods.

Districts' Specific Principles

- Where local actions are necessary to address falling groundwater levels and subsidence caused by localized groundwater extraction in excess of sustainable yield, WD's/ID's will attempt to contribute to solutions, but groundwater users will be required to contribute.

Governance Questions

- How to define interests, voting, costs,
- Need to identify desired outcomes
- Need to identify suite of actions and tools
- Is the Glenn county portion of the Colusa basin currently sustainable or not?



End