Sustainable Groundwater Management Act

SGMA

Paso Robles Groundwater Subbasin
February 23, 2017
Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA)

Courtney Howard, County Water Resources Division Manager
Carolyn Berg, County Senior Water Resources Engineer
Dane Mathis, California Department of Water Resources (DWR)
Sam Boland-Brien, State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB)
Tonight’s Public Forum

- Introductory Remarks
- Presentations
- Q&A
- Comment Period
Why are we here?
Why are we here?

• Keep you informed:
  • New State law with rapid deadlines
  • Local collaboration & path forward

• Provide an opportunity:
  • Hear moderated Q&A
  • Express thoughts or concerns on SGMA

Thanks for coming today!

• Sign in & sign up for email list: www.slocountywater.org/sgma
• Submit questions throughout
• Pick up informational handouts
• Will post presentations & audio recording online
Our volunteers & moderator
League of Women Voters
THROUGHOUT PRESENTATIONS: SUBMIT YOUR QUESTIONS

- SGMA Compliance & State Enforcement
- GSAs & GW Management
- GSPs & Technical Studies
- Management Actions & Projects
DWR PRESENTATION
The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act of 2014

“...recognition that groundwater management in California is best accomplished locally.”
Background
California’s Major Groundwater Milestones

Voluntary Groundwater Management
- Service Area Planning
- Variable Levels of Implementation
- Variable Authority
- Grant Incentives

Required Groundwater Management
- Entire Basin Planning
- Required Implementation
- New GSA Authorities
- State Backstop (SWRCB)

AB 3030
1992
SB 1938
2002
2003
2009
2010
CASGEM Program
2013
2014
2015
CA Water Action Plan
AB 359
GSPs (Basins in Overdraft)
2020
2022
GSPs (Non-Overdraft Basins)
2040/2042
SGMA
Achieve Sustainability Goal
**SGMA Overview**

- Required for High- and Medium Priority Basins
- Empowers GSAs:
  - Register groundwater wells
  - Measure extractions
  - Manage extractions
  - Require reports
  - Assess fees
- Creates State “Backstop”
- Establishes “sustainability goal”
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SGMA Activity</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>2015 and 2016</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| ✔ Initial Basin Prioritization: §10723.4  
  — Completed by January 31, 2015 |
| ✔ Regulations for Modifying Groundwater Basin Boundaries: §10722.2  
  — Completed by January 1, 2016 |
| ✔ Identification of Critically Overdrafted Basins: §12924  
  — Completed January 2016, Updated October 2016 |
| ✔ Groundwater Sustainability Plan and Alternatives Regulations: §10733.2  
  — Completed May 18, 2016 |
| ✔ Basin Boundary modification (Round 1)  
  — Completed October 11, 2016 |
| ✔ Water Available for Replenishment: §10729(c)  
  — Due December 31, 2016 |
| **2017 and 2018** |
| ✔ Bulletin 118: §12924  
  ✔ Interim Update due by January 2017  
  — Comprehensive Update due 2020 |
| ✔ Best Management Practices: §10729(d)  
  — Due January 1, 2017 |
| • Revised Basin Prioritization  
  — Estimate summer 2017 |
| • Alternative Plan Reviews  
  — Begin January 2017 |
| • Groundwater Sustainability Agency Formation: §10723  
  — Due by June 30, 2017 |
| • Prop 1 – SGM Grant Program (Round 2)  
  — Summer 2017 (Tentative) |
| • Basin Boundary Modification (Round 2)  
  — Early 2018 (Tentative) |
GSA/GSP options within a Basin
GSP Regulation Articles

1. Introductory Provisions
2. Definitions
3. Technical & Reporting Standards
4. Procedures
5. Plan Contents
6. Department Evaluation & Assessment
7. Annual Reports and Periodic Evaluations by the Agency
8. Interagency Agreements
9. Alternatives
Article 5. Plan Contents

1. Administrative Information
   § 354.4. General Information
   § 354.6. Agency Information
   § 354.8. Description of Plan Area
   § 354.10. Notice & Communication

2. Basin Setting
   § 354.16. Groundwater Conditions
   § 354.18. Water Budget
   § 354.20. Management Areas

3. Sustainable Management Criteria
   § 354.24. Sustainability Goal
   § 354.26. Undesirable Results
   § 354.28. Minimum Thresholds
   § 354.30. Measureable Objectives

4. Monitoring Networks
   § 354.34. Monitoring Network
   § 354.36. Representative Monitoring
   § 354.38. Assessment & Improvement
   § 354.40. Reporting Monitoring Data to the Department

5. Projects and Management Actions
   § 354.44. Projects & Management Actions
§ 354.24. Sustainability Goal

- A single sustainability goal for the basin
- Achieved within 20 years of GSP implementation
- Maintained without causing undesirable results
Minimum Threshold Metrics

Sustainability Indicators

- Lowering GW Levels
- Reduction of Storage
- Seawater Intrusion
- Degraded Quality
- Land Subsidence
- Surface Water Depletion

Metrics

- Groundwater Elevation
- Total Volume
- Isocontour of Chloride
- Degraded Quality
- Rate of Subsidence
- Volume of SW Depletions

*Groundwater Elevations - can be used for multiple minimum thresholds
GSP – DWR Review and Compliance

- GSP Submittal – 60 day (min.) comment period
- DWR review within 2 years

Review Criteria
- Pass/Fail?
  - On time, complete, entire basin
- Substantial compliance?
  - Approved
  - Incomplete - Some deficiencies to correct
  - Inadequate
DWR & SGMA Resources

• DWR SGMP Website
  www.water.ca.gov/groundwater/sgm/index.cfm

• Subscribe to DWR SGMP Email List
  www.water.ca.gov/groundwater/sgm/subscribe.cfm

• GIC Interactive Map (water level & subsidence maps)
  www.water.ca.gov/groundwater/MAP_APP/index.cfm

• SGMA Water Management Planning Tool (boundaries map)
  www.water.ca.gov/groundwater/boundaries.cfm
SWRCB PRESENTATION
State Water Resources Control Board
Sustainable Groundwater Management Act

The State Backstop
In an average year, more than 30% of California’s supply comes from groundwater.
In dry years, up to 60% of California’s supply comes from groundwater.
80% of Californians rely on groundwater
September 16, 2014
California drought

Source: California Drought Monitor
“Groundwater management in California is best accomplished locally.”

Governor Jerry Brown
Form Agencies

Develop Plans

Implement Plans

Achieve Sustainability!
“Where a local groundwater sustainability agency is not managing its groundwater sustainably, the state needs to protect the resource until...a local groundwater sustainability agency can sustainably manage the groundwater basin.”

California Legislature
Board only steps in when local efforts fail.
Temporarily protects the basin until locals come up-to-speed.
Backstop is triggered by SGMA deadlines.
Triggering the Backstop

Jul 1, 2017 NO GSA

Feb 1, 2020 NO/POOR PLAN & CRITICAL OVERDRAFT
Unmanaged pumpers **REPORT** to the **BOARD**
Unmanaged pumpers REPORT to the BOARD.

Board may designate ENTIRE basin PROBATIONARY.
Groundwater extraction reports

Pumpers report directly to the Board annually.

1. Well location and capacity
2. Monthly extraction volumes
3. Place and purpose of use

De Minimis users are exempt.
Probationary groundwater BASIN

- Opportunity to fix issues
- Board investigations
- All pumpers report
- May require meters

De Minimis users are not exempt.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Physical Solutions</th>
<th>Demand Management</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Increase supply</td>
<td>Decrease demand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Storm water capture</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Develop local supply</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water imports</td>
<td>Pumping restrictions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Desalination</td>
<td>*most likely corrective action</td>
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</table>
ENFORCEMENT

Willful Misstatement
Misdemeanor
$1,000 & 6 months imprisonment

Material Misstatement or Device Tampering
$25,000 + $1,000 per day

Failure to File
$1,000 + $500 per day
Adjudication and SGMA
Adjudication PROCESS

- Minimize interference with SGMA
- Pause for SGMA
- Pumping restrictions
- Entire basin

State Backstop Applies
California will no longer be the only Western state that does not manage its groundwater. The cost of doing nothing is the biggest economic gamble.

Senator Fran Pavley

Sam Boland-Brien
sболand-brien@waterboards.ca.gov
916-322-9633

Groundwater Management Program
www.waterboards.ca.gov/gmp
Local Implementation of SGMA

Forming Groundwater Sustainability Agencies by **June 30, 2017**

- Carolyn Berg, P.E., County Senior Water Resources Engineer

Developing a Groundwater Sustainability Plan by **January 31, 2020**

- Courtney Howard, P.E., County Water Resources Division Manager
SGMA: Where does the law apply locally?
County’s SGMA Strategy: Facilitate GSA Formation
January 13, 2015 & May 24, 2015

Establish community focused GSAs based on cooperative interagency and stakeholder relationships in order to comply with SGMA requirements.
Addendum to County’s SGMA Strategy
November 1, 2016

1. Interests represented
   (CSAs, unincorporated areas, other authorities)

2. GSA Legal Agreement Type
   whichever is best suited to the basin; JPA, MOA, etc.

3. Key Elements of Agreement
   3a: Financial Strategies
   3b: Membership & Participation

   3a. Cost recovery (from basin users) for SGMA services
       If no cost recovery, County wouldn’t provide SGMA services

   3b. Fair & equitable; Adequate consultation with other authorities
       Intent to withdraw if new eligible entity by 12/31/2017
Forming Groundwater Management Entities

• Formed by one or more agencies
  - Local public agencies with:
    - Water supply responsibility
    - Land use responsibility
    - Water management responsibility
  - Allows participation by mutual water companies or PUC-regulated water corporations
  - MOA or JPA

• Requires coordination between GSAs
Groundwater Sustainability Agency Coverage Options

1. Multiple GSAs, Multiple GSPs with single Coordination Agreement
2. Multiple GSAs, One GSP with single Coordination Agreement
3. One GSA, One GSP
(Salinas Valley) Paso & Atascadero Subbasins

GSA Deadline: 6/30/2017
GSP Deadline: 1/31/2020

- Atascadero MWC
- Templeton CSD
- County of SLO
- City of Paso
- City of Atascadero
- Other Parties

MOA

Executive Committee - Atascadero GSA

Coordination with Paso Subbasin GSAs/ MOA
California’s Major Groundwater Milestones

1992
- AB 3030
- SB 1938

2002
- CASGEM Program

2003
- AB 3030

2009
- 2010
- CA Water Action Plan

2013
- 2014
- 2015
- SGMA

2020
- GSPs (Basins in Overdraft)

2022
- GSPs (Non-Overdraft Basins)

2040/2042
- Achieve Sustainability Goal

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**Required Groundwater Management**
- Entire Basin Planning
- Required Implementation
- New GSA Authorities
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Paso Basin GSAs Committee “Scope of Work”

- Basin Setting
  - Hydrogeologic Conceptual Model
  - Groundwater Conditions
  - Water Budget
  - Management Areas

- Sustainable Management Criteria
  - Sustainability Goal
  - Undesirable Results
  - Minimum Thresholds
  - Measurable Objectives

- Monitoring Networks
  - Monitoring Network
  - Representative Monitoring
  - Assessment & Improvement
  - Reporting Monitoring Data to DWR

- Projects & Management Actions
  - Projects & Management Actions
Updating the Basin Setting

- **Hydrogeologic Conceptual Model**
  - Bulletin 118

- **Groundwater Conditions**
  - Update to meet regulations

- **Water Budget**
  - Update to meet regulations

- **Management Areas**
  - Establish in a way that enables effective management
Updating the Basin Setting

Spring Water Surface Elevation (WSE) Trends

- BMO Range
- Avg. WSE Difference (1)
- Cumulative Departure (2)

1997 - 2013
Deciding on Sustainable Management Criteria

- **Sustainability Goal**: Basin-wide
- **Undesirable Results**: Each of the five metrics
- **Minimum Thresholds**: Each of the five metrics
- **Measurable Objectives**: Milestones to achieve on the path to sustainability

### Needs
- Existing Deficiencies
- General Plan
- Resiliency
Establishing an Adequate Monitoring Network

- Monitoring Network
  - Basin-wide and comparable to standards

- Representative Monitoring
  - Each of the five metrics

- Assessment & Improvement
  - Plan to fill data gaps

- Reporting Monitoring Data to DWR
  - Data management and reporting system

www.slocounty.ca.gov
Deciding what Actions to Take

Projects & Management Actions

Demand Management
Supply Enhancement
Combination

Goal
GSP Management Actions: Demand Management

- Water Use Efficiency Programs (urban, rural, ag/irrigation)

- Ordinances:
  - Restrictions on new well installation (spacing, interference)
  - Limitations on groundwater transfers
  - Land use requirements
  - Offset requirements
  - Extraction management
GSP Management Actions: Supply Enhancement

• Stormwater management projects (wet year supplies)

• Purchase excess surface water for conjunctive use projects
  • State Water, Nacimiento Reservoir

• Water treatment

• Recycled water
Tough Decisions Ahead

- What’s the likelihood of success?
  - Physical
  - Economic (direct and indirect)
  - Social / Political
  - Environmental

- How do you prioritize alternatives?
  - “Low hanging fruit”
  - Long term solutions
How to Engage
How do **YOU** engage in SGMA compliance?

- **Paso Basin Coordination Committee (MOA)**
  - Staff of each GSA
  - MOA
  - **Paso Basin Coordination Committee (MOA)**
  - **Stakeholder Advisory Committee**

  **Each formed by Resolution**
  - Co. of SLO GSA
  - City of Paso GSA
  - San Miguel CSD GSA
  - Heritage Ra. CSD GSA
  - Shandon SJWD GSA
  - EPCWD GSA
  - Sal Val GSA?

  **Coordination (e.g. Salinas Valley, Atascadero)**

  **Staff of each GSA**

  **www.slocounty.ca.gov**
Next Steps

- Update to County Board – March 7\textsuperscript{th}

- Establish various GSAs:
  - SMCSD GSA formation hearing – Completed
  - City of Paso GSA formation hearing – Completed
  - HRCSD GSA formation hearing – In process
  - SSJWD formation vote – In process
  - EPCWD LAFCO formation hearing – April 6\textsuperscript{th}
  - County as GSA formation hearing – (tentative) May 2\textsuperscript{nd}

Stay informed: [www.slocountywater.org/sgma](http://www.slocountywater.org/sgma)
Paso Robles Groundwater Subbasin: Resources and Opportunities to Engage

Opportunities for Input & Information:

- Read SGMA & regulations
- Visit: [www.slocountywater.org/sgma](http://www.slocountywater.org/sgma)
- Join email lists – County, DWR
- Provide input to GSAs & Coordination Committee at key decision points
- Volunteer on advisory committee(s) or attend meetings
- Help to identify critical stakeholders
- Attend basin outreach events
WELCOME OUR PANELISTS

PANEL DISCUSSION

*SUBMIT YOUR QUESTIONS

- SGMA Compliance & State Enforcement
- GSAs & GW Management
- GSPs & Technical Studies
- Management Actions & Projects
COMMENT PERIOD

*PLEASE LIMIT COMMENT TO 1 -2 MINUTES
THANK YOU!

For more information, join our email list:
www.slocountywater.org/sgma