



# *Implementing the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act*

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Groundwater Tour  
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# What is SGMA?

The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) is a 2014 California law that requires groundwater to be *sustainably managed* over a long period. This means the amount of groundwater that can be taken every year cannot, overtime, create lower groundwater levels and/or:

- Cause seawater to seep in
- Harm water quality
- Create land subsidence
- Deplete creeks, streams and rivers (or other connected water)
- Cause other significant and adverse impacts



# What is a GSA?

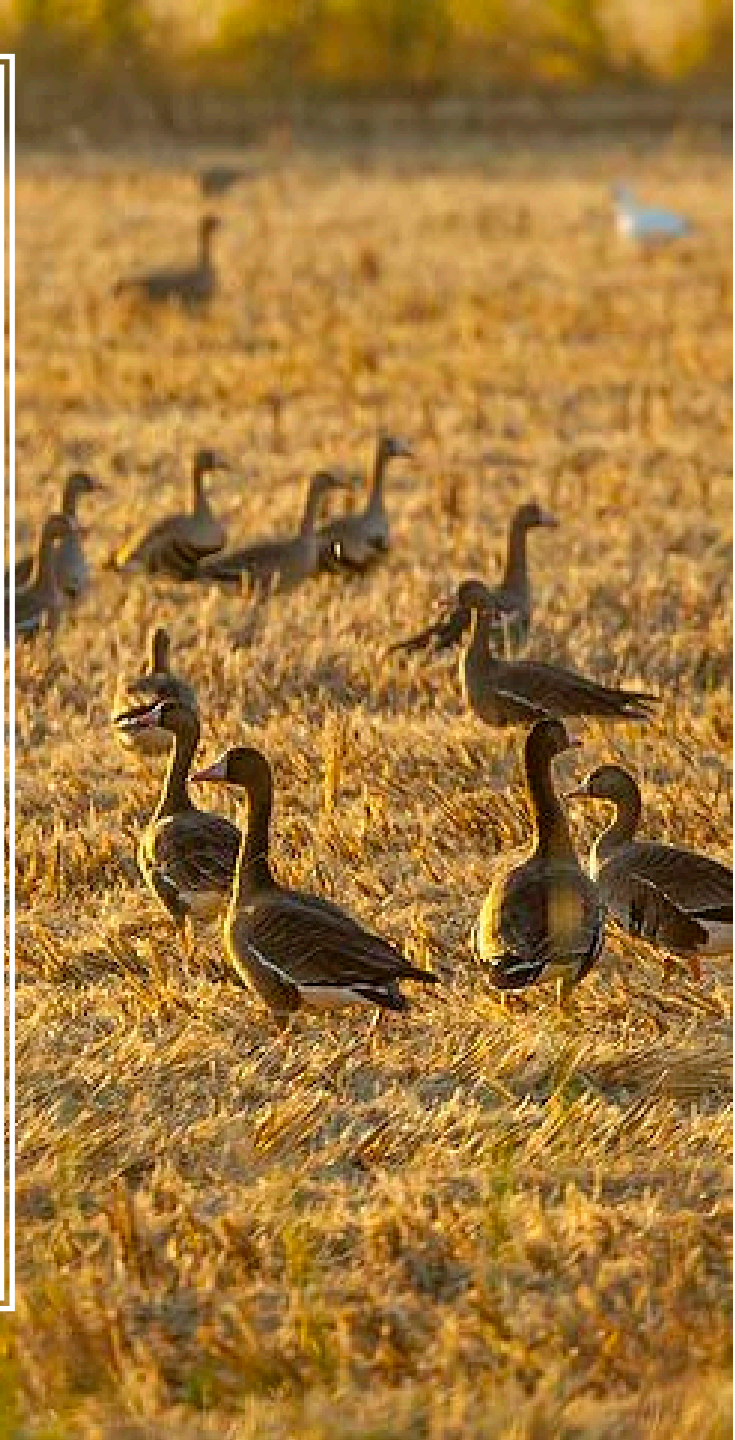
- One or more **local governmental agencies** that formally become a GSA and implement SGMA.
- Assess their groundwater and adopt **locally-based sustainable management plans**.
- Strive to create drought resiliency and improve coordination between land use and groundwater planning.
- Have water supply, water management or land management authority and can create rules and regulations and impose fees to achieve sustainability goals.



# What is a GSP?

In the places where the State has identified a medium or high-priority for sustainable management, SGMA requires that a local Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) prepare a **Groundwater Sustainability Plan(s)**.

These Plans describe the basin setting and set the criteria that will, within 20 years, deliver sustainable groundwater management without preventing an adjacent basin to implement its Plan or achieve its goals.





# Who will implement SGMA?

## Local Role

- Sustainable management of groundwater supplies is done by local authorities, through the formation of local groundwater sustainability agencies (GSAs).
- The act provides substantial time – 20 years – for GSAs to implement plans and achieve long-term groundwater sustainability.

## State Role

- The State developed the rules and regulations that guide development of GSA's and sustainability plans. Otherwise there is a limited role for state intervention only if necessary to protect the resource.
- The State is committed to the success of local agencies and is providing technical assistance to local agencies.

# SGMA Stakeholder Involvement



- Groundwater users help to plan for and preserve shared natural resource.
- SGMA requires a list of interested parties and consideration of their interests in the GSA and the agency's groundwater sustainability plan (GSP).
- Desires to understand and utilize groundwater user ideas before the development of the GSA and GSP.

# GSA Formation So Far



Description	Area (acres)	Coverage
High & Medium Basins	19,223,500	100%
Adjudicated Areas	2,025,300	11%
GSA's Submitted	6,418,000	33%
Exclusive GSA's	2,492,000	13%

Note: Calculations are approximate and do not reflect recently submitted GSA notices.

# Getting to Yes

- Not everyone is thrilled with the requirements of SGMA
- DWR and the State Board offer assistance that leads to implementation
- The State WANTS local agencies to be successful





# Facilitation Services

California Department of Water Resources  
Technical Support



# Services Offered



- Strategic planning
- Stakeholder identification and outreach
- Stakeholder assessment
- Stakeholder liaison and mediation
- Meeting facilitation
- Governance assessment
- Public outreach

# Neutral Third Party Facilitators

- University

Statewide Team  
of Experienced  
Mediators and  
Facilitators

- Private Sector  
and Non-Profit

Collaboration with  
the Research  
Community



# Who is eligible?

*Four minimum eligibility requirements:*



- Commitment to work collaboratively with others to meet the requirements of the SGMA
- Identify a clear and defined need for professional facilitation support services
- Commitment to meet regularly and work diligently toward clear, defined goals.
- Commit to providing logistical and administrative support



# How to Get Help

You can contact your Regional Coordinator for updates and high-level technical summaries on relevant programs and projects within your region. Regional Coordinators are your first point of contact for information from DWR.

## Contact Information

-  General Contact: [DWR-RC@water.ca.gov](mailto:DWR-RC@water.ca.gov)
-  Northern Region:  
**Mary Randall**, [Mary.Randall@water.ca.gov](mailto:Mary.Randall@water.ca.gov), (530) 528-7407
-  North Central Region:  
**Hong Lin**, [Hong.Lin@water.ca.gov](mailto:Hong.Lin@water.ca.gov), (916) 376-9656
-  South Central Region:  
**Ernie Taylor**, [Ernest.Taylor@water.ca.gov](mailto:Ernest.Taylor@water.ca.gov), (559) 230-3352
-  Southern Region:  
**Brian Moniz**, [Brian.Moniz@water.ca.gov](mailto:Brian.Moniz@water.ca.gov), (818) 500-1645
-  Regional Coordination Lead:  
**Scott Woodland**, [Scott.Woodland@water.ca.gov](mailto:Scott.Woodland@water.ca.gov), (916) 651-9258

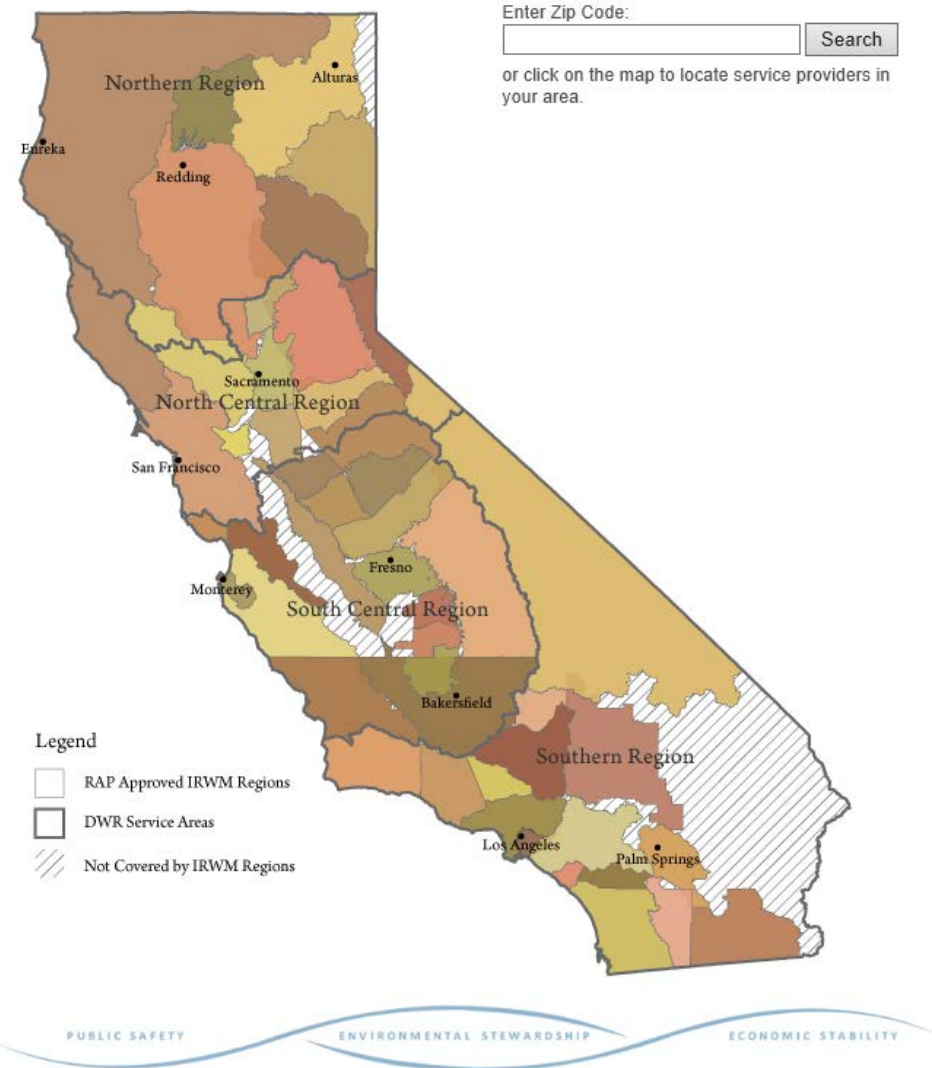


# Not Sure Who to Contact?

# Need More information?

- DWR Website has tools to help you find a coordinator
- <http://www.water.ca.gov/groundwater/sgm/>
- [http://www.water.ca.gov/irwm/partnership/contact\\_locator.cfm](http://www.water.ca.gov/irwm/partnership/contact_locator.cfm)

## IRWM Contact Locator



# Getting Started - Facilitators Can Help Agencies Identify:

- Problems and opportunities
- Decisions to be made
- Key issues requiring stakeholder concurrence
- Preferred communication approaches
- Preferred planning approaches and solutions

Who: People that need to be engaged/informed and to what extent

What: Objectives and issues important to participants

Where: Place based, including virtual locations (on-line support)

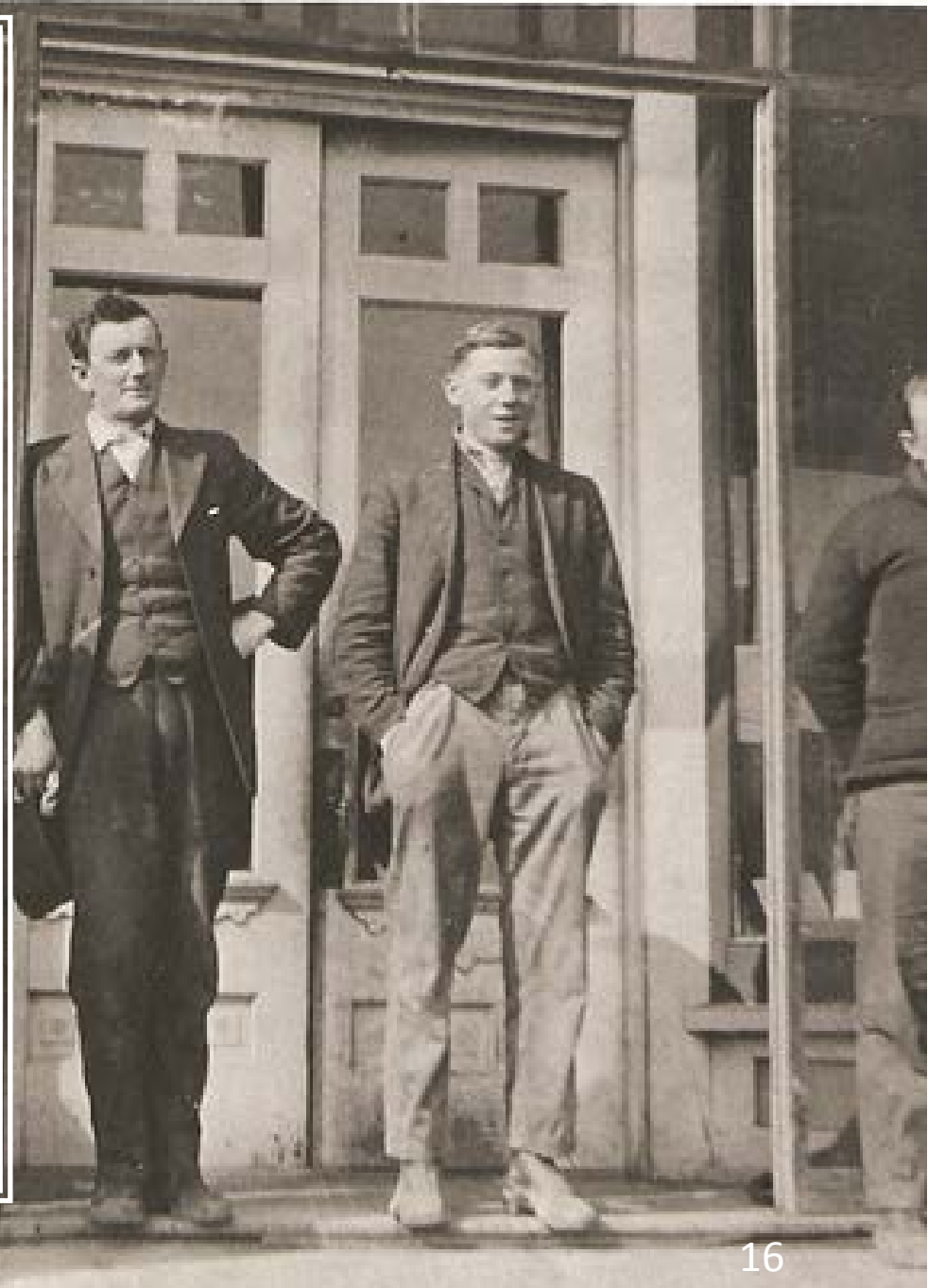
When: Timing

Why: Validation that this particular audience, objectives and approach will support successful GSA formation – GSP development

How: Methods

# Stakeholder Trends

- Wide Variation
  - Interest and knowledge
- Agricultural
- Tribal
- Trusted Messengers





# Decisions to Be Made

- How Many GSAs?
- How Many GSPs?
- What is the Composition of the GSA(s)?
- How will non-GSA eligible Stakeholders be represented?



How Many  
GSAs?



# How will the GSA be Governed?



# Existing Elected Body

- A GSA eligible agency becomes the GSA for its jurisdiction
- The existing elected body of the agency oversees the GSA

# Weighted/Proportional Voting

- In cases of multiple agencies forming as a single GSA governance is shared through equitable voting arrangements

# Delegate Voting to Non-Public Agencies

GSA members may provide or delegate voting power to representatives from groups who are not local public agencies. JPAs are drafted and signed by local cities and counties.

Cities and counties delegate governing board seats to irrigation districts, private water purveyors and investor owned utilities and various other representatives such as an “agricultural interest” representative and a “conservation landowners” representative etc. Additionally, the JPA can require non-member governing board representatives to contribute funding to the agency.

# Legal Voting Arrangement

Parties may seek to establish a legal agreement with a GSA governing board member such as a county, with voting power in a GSA overlying their basin. Under this agreement, parties could stipulate that the governing board member may vote only after receiving the recommendation of the non-public agency that is a party to the agreement.

# Associate Membership Arrangement

GSA's may also involve non-local public agencies without delegating member's voting powers by opting for an associate membership arrangement.

Under this option, a GSA's formation agreement could designate specific representatives, or provide the governing board the authority to designate associate representatives.



# Advisory Committee

- GSAs can form advisory committees, where stakeholders may participate in the preparation and administration of a GSP through committees set up for that purpose.

# Form a New Public Agency

- Individuals that do not have public agency status may decide they would like to form a public agency in order to form or participate in a GSA.

# GSPs – Just One / Or Two Coordinated



# Risk Factors

- Assess current risk
- Design collaboration strategies to minimize risk

RISK CATEGORY	Outreach RISK FACTORS
Technical, quality, or performance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Realistic performance goals, scope and objectives</li> </ul>
Project management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quality of outreach design</li> <li>• Outreach deployment and change management</li> <li>• Appropriate allocation of time and resources</li> <li>• Adequate support for Outreach in project management plans</li> </ul>
Organizational / Internal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Executive Sponsorship</li> <li>• Proper prioritization of efforts</li> <li>• Conflicts with other functions</li> <li>• Distribution of workload</li> </ul>
External	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Legal and regulatory environment</li> <li>• Changing priorities</li> <li>• Risks related to political dynamics</li> </ul>
Historical	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Past experiences with similar projects</li> <li>• Organizational relations with stakeholders</li> <li>• Policy and data adequacy</li> <li>• Media and stakeholder fatigue</li> </ul>

# Questions ???

For More information  
Contact Lisa Beutler  
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