The Role of SGMA in a Resilient Water Future

SEPTEMBER 25, 2015

PRESENTER: Alyson Watson, P.E.



Complex Challenges Innovative Solutions

California is in the Midst of its Fourth Year of Drought A very dry year **RECORDS FALL** IN DRIEST YEAR The map of California drought conditions Abnormally dry 14.17 as of Dec. 24 shows nearly 85 percent of Moderate drough inches the state with severe to extreme drought. Severe drought **Current California Drought Is Driest In** One year ago the red and orange categories 6.04 Extreme drought covered just a guarter of the state. (1929)State's History; Scientists Fear Currently Dec. 24, 2013 U.S. Drought Monitor One year ago Dec. 25, 2012 'Megadroughts' On Their Way California California Farms Going Thirsty as THE SACRAMEN Drought Burns \$5 Billion Hole Friday, January 24, 2014 San 3.39 alendar resno DROUGHT'S ONE FOR THE BOOKS Capitol Start Bakersfield Bakersfield Water' Oakland S.J. officials declare drought Los Angeles Los Angeles San Dieg San Dieg emergency Source: U.S. Drought Monitor BAY AREA NEWS GROU records Average rainfall to date Previous record low e experiencing Rainfall to date this year dry year. 30.26 California drought: 17 communities 22.77 could run out of water within 60 to 120 17.62 The marina at Brown's Ravine sits far from the water on this aerial view 11.85 10.57 8.96 (1929)8.69 City breaks a record (2007*) days, state says (1917)(1977)5.59 5.045.07 By Paul Rogers Concord Santa Cruz progers@mercurynews.com ata goes only goes back to 1992 BAY AREA NEWS GROUF

Snowpack Typically Provides About 30% of California's Water Supply





Source: NASA Earth Observatory



Reservoir Storage is Critically Low



Bidwell Marina, Lake Oroville





Groundwater Levels are Declining

Increase > 10 feet

Change +/- 2.5 feet

Decrease > 10 feet

Groundwater Basin

County Boundary Major Highway

Major Canal

Increase 10 to 2.5 feet

Decrease 2.5 to 10 feet







Groundwater level change (Fall 2009 – Fall 2014)

Source: DWR Groundwater Information Center







Total Water Year Precipitation

With Great Challenge Comes **Great Opportunity**

The California Water Action Plan (CWAP) was developed with interagency coordination to establish a pathway to water resiliency









CWAP: Focus on Reliability, Restoration, and Resilience



California Water Action Plan Priority Actions

- 1. Make **conservation** a California way of life
- 2. Increase regional self-reliance and **integrated water management** across all levels of government
- 3. Achieve the co-equal goals for the Delta
- 4. Protect and restore important ecosystems
- 5. Manage and prepare for dry periods
- 6. Expand water storage capacity and improve groundwater management
- 7. Provide safe water for all communities
- 8. Increase flood protection
- 9. Increase operational and regulatory efficiency

10. Identify sustainable and integrated financing opportunities



"All Californians have a stake in our water future. These actions set us on a path toward reliability, restoration, and resilience in California water."



Multiple Efforts are Being Implemented In Concert to Achieve CWAP Actions







California's Water Future Stands at a Crossroad





SUSTAINABILITY

Groundwater Management
Water Supply
Economic Prosperity
Ecosystem Protection
Societal Benefits

SGMA Key Principles



- Groundwater is best managed at the local /regional level
- Groundwater must be managed sustainably
- Local agencies should have necessary authority & tools to implement the regulations
- State will provide assistance and oversight but only intervene when needed





Groundwater Typically Comprises Nearly 40% of California's Water Use

Regions with Greatest Groundwater Use

- Tulare Lake (38% of statewide total)
- San Joaquin River (19% of statewide total)
- Sacramento River (18% of statewide total)
- South Coast (10% of statewide total)

Central Coast and Tulare Lake are most reliant on local groundwater (86% and 53% of local water use, respectively)





Groundwater Management is Highly Decentralized







There are Challenges Along the Road to Success



Jmplementable regulations

Agreement on data and tools

Local buy-in and support



DWR's Phased Approach to Implementing SGMA



Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3	Phase 4
Realignment of Governance and Area and delineation of Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs)	Development and Adoption of Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs)	Initial Management through Water Budgets	Sustainable Groundwater Management
2014-2017	2017-2022	2020-2030	2020-2040



The Water Budget is the Heart of the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP)



(+) INFLOW

- > Precipitation (+)
- Infiltration Applied Water (+)
- Infiltration Surface Sources (+)
- Infiltration Managed Recharge (+)
- Subsurface Inflow (+)

(-) OUTFLOW

- GW Extraction
- Evapotranspiration
- Discharge to Surface Sources
- Subsurface Outflow

= Change in Storage

Available Data and Tools will Drive Water Budget Development





The Water Budget Provides a Long-Term View of Basin Conditions





The Key to GSP Acceptance will be Reconciliation of Data and Assumptions





"The department shall periodically review the groundwater sustainability plans... <u>to evaluate</u> whether a plan conforms with Sections 10727.2 and 10727.4 and is likely to achieve the sustainability goal"

> Close coordination with DWR will be necessary to validate data, assumptions, etc., prior to GSP submittal



Key Areas of Data Verification / Validation Likely to be Needed



Total Pumping Data

Irrigation Practices

Land Use & Cropping Patterns



Subsurface Flows



Next Steps: Timeline for Achieving Sustainability

January 2020



Local agencies from Groundwater Sustainability (GSA) for bulletin 118 groundwater basins designated as medium- or high priority

GSA adopt Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs) for basins in critical overdraft

GSAs adopt GSPs for noncritical medium- and high-priority basins

2020

nuary

σ

Sustainable Mgmt Achieved



2017

June

2042

GSPs & Water **Budgets will** Provide the Foundation for **Future Water** Planning





SGMA Implementation will Pave the Way for A Sustainable Water Future





SUSTAINABILITY Groundwater Management Water Supply Economic Prosperity Ecosystem Protection

Thank You!



Alyson Watson, P.E. RMC Water and Environment <u>awatson@rmcwater.com</u> 415-321-3400



