



California Department of Water Resources *Sustainable Groundwater Management Program* Progress Report

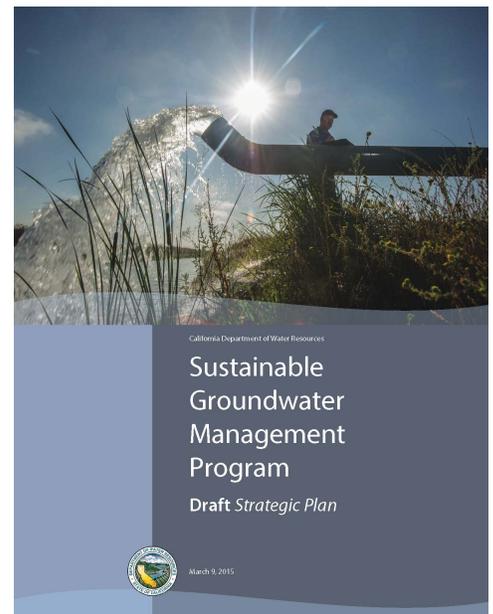
On September 16, 2014, Governor Brown signed into law a three-bill legislative package, collectively known as the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). The new and expanded responsibilities identified in the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act are being implemented by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) through the Sustainable Groundwater Management Program.

The March 2015 Draft Sustainable Groundwater Management Program Strategic Plan described how DWR will implement SGMA and empower local agencies to sustainably manage California's groundwater resources. The Strategic Plan presented five objectives defining DWR's approach to organizing and executing the work necessary for successful program implementation.

DWR's five groundwater sustainability objectives are:

- **Objective 1:** Develop a Framework for Sustainable Groundwater Management
- **Objective 2:** Provide Statewide Technical Assistance to Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSA)
- **Objective 3:** Provide Statewide Planning Assistance to Support Groundwater Sustainability
- **Objective 4:** Assist State and GSA Alignment and Provide Financial Assistance
- **Objective 5:** Provide Interregional Assistance

Considerable progress has been made in the implementation of the five objectives outlined in the Strategic Plan. This document provides an overview of the key accomplishments of the Program to-date.



The Draft Sustainable Groundwater Management Program Strategic Plan established five objectives for successful program implementation.

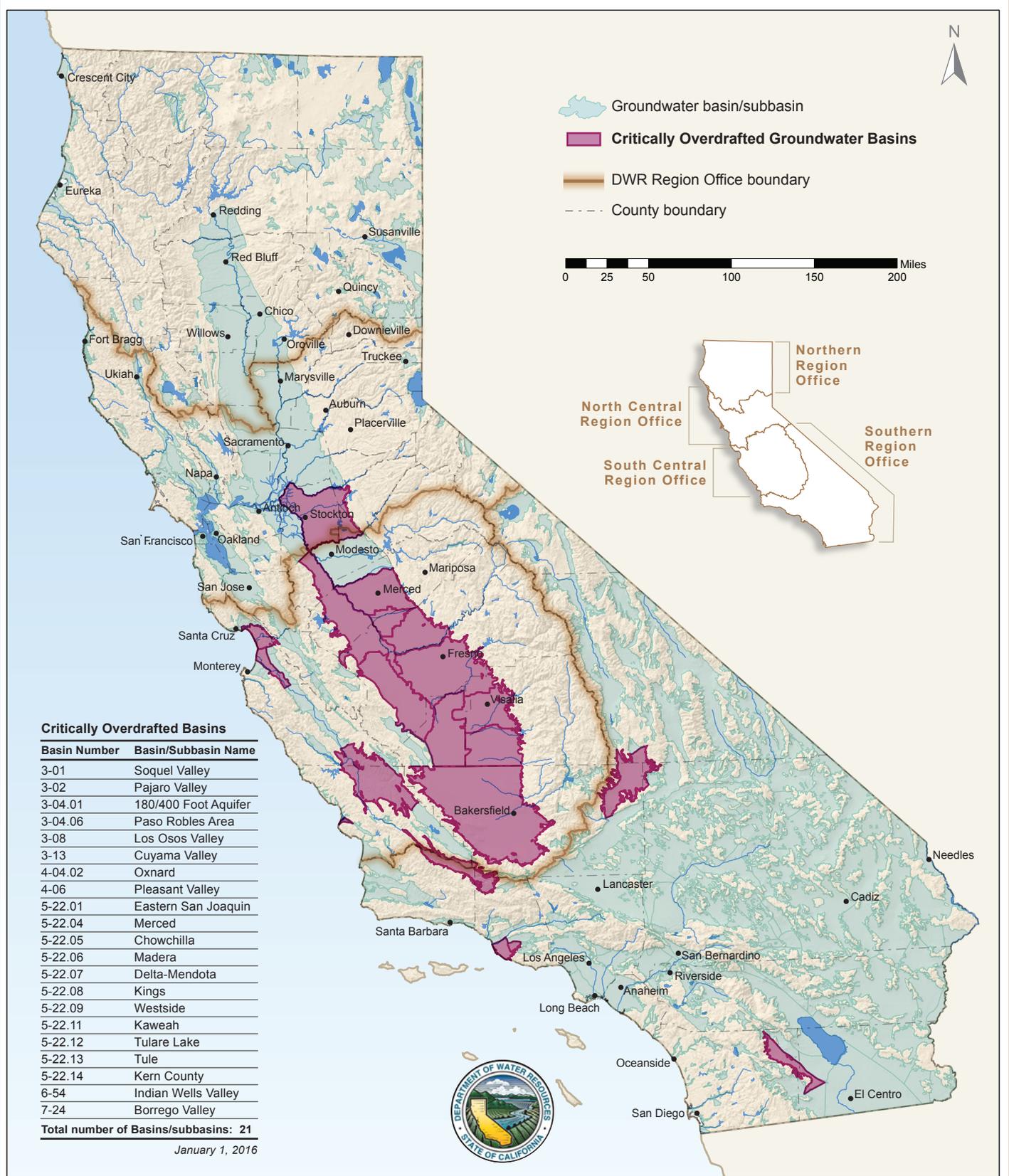


Figure 1. Updated List of Critically Overdrafted Groundwater Basins

Key Accomplishments for Objective 1: Develop a Framework for Sustainable Groundwater Management

✓ Updated List of Critically Overdrafted Basins

The SGMA directed DWR to identify groundwater basins and subbasins in conditions of critical overdraft on or before January 1, 2016. Critically overdrafted basins shall be managed under a groundwater sustainability plan (GSP) or coordinated GSPs by January 31, 2020. All other high and medium priority basins must be managed under a GSP by January 31, 2022.

DWR developed a draft list of critically overdrafted basins that included 21 basins and subbasins. DWR presented the draft list to the California Water Commission (CWC) and no revisions were made to the draft list after the public comment period. The final list (**Figure 1**) will be included in the Bulletin 118 Interim Update 2017.

✓ Established Groundwater Basin Prioritization under SGMA

SGMA resulted in revisions to the Water Code directing DWR to develop the initial groundwater basin priority by January 31, 2015. DWR concluded that the basin prioritization finalized in June 2014 under the California Statewide Groundwater Elevation Monitoring (CASGEM) Program will be the initial prioritization. The basin prioritization results are posted on the CASGEM website at http://www.water.ca.gov/groundwater/casgem/basin_prioritization.cfm. Basin prioritization will be reevaluated after basin boundary modification updates.

✓ Developed and Adopted Regulations for Basin Boundary Modification

The SGMA established a process for local agencies to request that DWR revise the boundaries of existing groundwater basins or subbasins, including the establishment of a new subbasin. The Basin Boundary Emergency Regulation was developed through an extensive stakeholder outreach process. The CWC unanimously approved the new groundwater basin boundary regulations on October 21, 2015. The regulations went into effect November 16, 2015. The Basin Boundary regulations:

- Establish the process for local agencies to request DWR to revise the boundaries of a groundwater basin or subbasin.
- Specify the information required to support a boundary modification request.
- Establish the methodology and criteria that DWR will use to evaluate proposed revisions to groundwater basin boundaries.

DWR supplied a number of tools to aid local agencies in the basin boundary modification request process:

- The Basin Boundary Assessment Tool was created for agencies to view geologic maps and other boundaries.
- The Basin Boundary Modification Request System (**Figure 2**) was designed to aid in the submittal of Initial Notification and Basin Boundary Modification Requests.
- A factsheet, timeline, checklist, and FAQ were developed as informational resources.
- A presentation was held and broadcast by webinar to assist local agencies as they navigated the new regulations.

The submission period for Basin Boundary Modification Requests ended March 31, 2016. A total of 54 requests were submitted by local agencies to modify basin boundaries. Final basin boundary modifications will be published in the Bulletin 118 Interim Update 2017.

Department of Water Resources
Basin Boundary Modification Request System

Welcome to the Basin Boundary Modification Request System. The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) established a process for local agencies to request that the Department of Water Resources (DWR) revise the boundaries of a groundwater basin or subbasin, including the establishment of a new subbasin. This tool is for use by local agencies to request basin boundary modifications and for the public to access basin boundary modification information.

Registration and login are required to submit a basin boundary modification request, but are not required to view submitted information.

The system accepts voluntary basin boundary modification requests from local agencies, pursuant to DWR's Basin Boundary emergency regulation. Additional information is available about the existing Bulletin 118 groundwater basins and an interactive map is available to help visualize the Bulletin 118 groundwater basins and other relevant political, geologic, and geographic boundaries.

- Prior to performing a modification request, a printable template is available here to inform you of the items needed to complete the request.
- Upon submission, you will receive an email acknowledging receipt of your initial notification or modification request.
- For assistance with the Basin Boundary Modification System, please email the administrator at Timothy.Godwin@water.ca.gov.

Local Agency Submissions Tools

Click Here to Submit Initial Notification (Pursuant to Section 343.9)

Click Here to Submit Basin Boundary Modification Request (Submission Period: January 1, 2016 through March 31, 2016)

Public and Interested Party Tools

View List of Submitted Initial Notifications

View List of Submitted Modification Requests

View Map of Submitted Initial Notifications

View Map of Submitted Modification Requests

If you are interested in being informed when Basin Boundary Modifications related Actions or any other SGM Program actions are made, please subscribe to email listserv here: <http://www.water.ca.gov/groundwater/sgms/subscribe.cfm>

Figure 2. Basin Boundary Modification Request System

✓ Developed and Adopted Regulations for GSPs and Alternatives

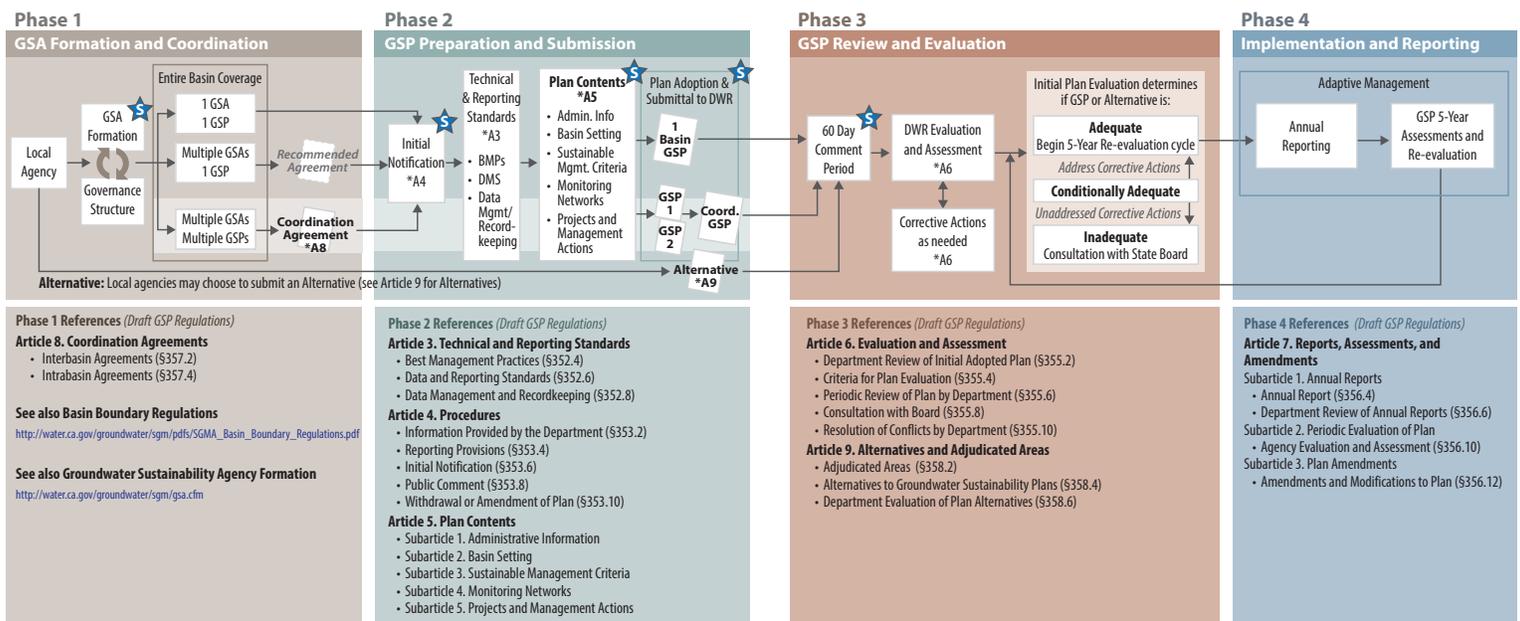
Pursuant to Water Code §10733.2, DWR was required to draft and adopt emergency regulations for the evaluation of GSPs and Alternatives, the implementation of GSPs and Alternatives, and coordination agreements by June 1, 2016.

DWR established a comprehensive outreach approach to: (1) educate the public about groundwater science and the regulatory requirements of SGMA; (2) better understand important regional and local issues; and (3) collect statewide information to assist with the development of GSP Emergency Regulations. Throughout 2015 and into 2016, DWR regularly met with numerous SGMA advisory groups and conducted public meetings and webinars to gather perspectives from other statewide stakeholders, partners, and local agencies, which have been considered in the Draft GSP Emergency Regulations.

The Draft GSP Emergency Regulations were published on February 18, 2016. DWR published a guide in March 2016 to provide information essential to understanding the Draft GSP Emergency Regulations. DWR received more than 157 comments during the formal comment period. The comments were considered in the Proposed GSP Emergency Regulations that were presented to the CWC. The Proposed GSP Emergency Regulations were approved by the CWC on May 18, 2016.



The DWR regulations to guide local sustainable groundwater management plans were approved by the California Water Commission on May 18, 2016.



The Draft GSP Emergency Regulations Guide describes the phases of GSP development and implementation. The guide can be found at: http://water.ca.gov/groundwater/sgm/pdfs/GSP_Regulations_Guide.pdf.

✓ Adjudicated Basins Annual Reporting System

SGMA established a process for adjudicated basin watermaster or local agencies to report information according to Water Code §10720.8. DWR developed a system to facilitate the required reporting process. To include watermaster and water managers of adjudicated areas' input, DWR developed a draft template and presented the template at an in-person and WebEx workshop. DWR revised the draft template following valuable interactions at the workshop. The Adjudicated Basin Reporting website is now available for use at: <http://sgma.water.ca.gov/adjudbasins/>

CA.GOV Department of Water Resources
Adjudicated Basins Annual Reporting System

For returning users, please Sign In to add new or make changes to your adjudicated basin annual report.

Secure Sign-in
User ID
Password
 Remember User ID **Sign In**
Forgot password? Click [here](#) to recover your account.

New users? Please click [here](#) to request for an user account.

View List of Submitted Reports

Welcome

The [Sustainable Groundwater Management Act](#) asks watermasters or managers of [adjudicated areas](#) to submit certain values and documents to DWR by April 1 of each year. (see [Water Code section 10720.8](#)) This site was developed to allow watermasters and managers to submit the required information to DWR.

Watermasters and managers of [adjudicated areas](#) must establish a secure User ID and Password in order to access the system and submit information. Once submitted, the information for a reporting year is locked. If updates or corrections are necessary, please send an email to SGMAAdjudreporting@water.ca.gov

NOTE: All information submitted to the Adjudicated Basin Annual Reporting System website can be viewed by the public.

Figure 3. Adjudicated Basins Annual Reporting System

Key Accomplishments for Objective 2: Provide Statewide Technical Assistance to Groundwater Sustainability Agencies

✓ Groundwater Tools

DWR developed a web-based application to assist local agencies in water management planning efforts. The Water Management Planning Tool is an interactive map application that allows users to overlay numerous Geographic Information Systems (GIS) layers onto a map of California, and allows for those GIS layers to be toggled on and off while varying each layer's transparency. The tool can be found at <https://gis.water.ca.gov/app/boundaries/>.

The Groundwater Information Center (GIC) is DWR's portal for groundwater information, groundwater management plans, water well basics, and statewide and regional reports, maps, and figures. The GIC Interactive Map is a web-based application serving as a complement to the data, reports, and other information provided on the GIC website. The GIC Interactive Map can be accessed at <https://gis.water.ca.gov/app/gicima/>.

Key Accomplishments for Objective 3: Provide Statewide Planning Assistance to Support Groundwater Sustainability

✓ Facilitation Services

DWR provided facilitation services (Figure 4) from contracted professionals for strategic planning, stakeholder assessments, meeting facilitation, mediation, governance assessment, and public outreach to support local efforts to form GSAs and develop GSPs to meet the requirements of SGMA.

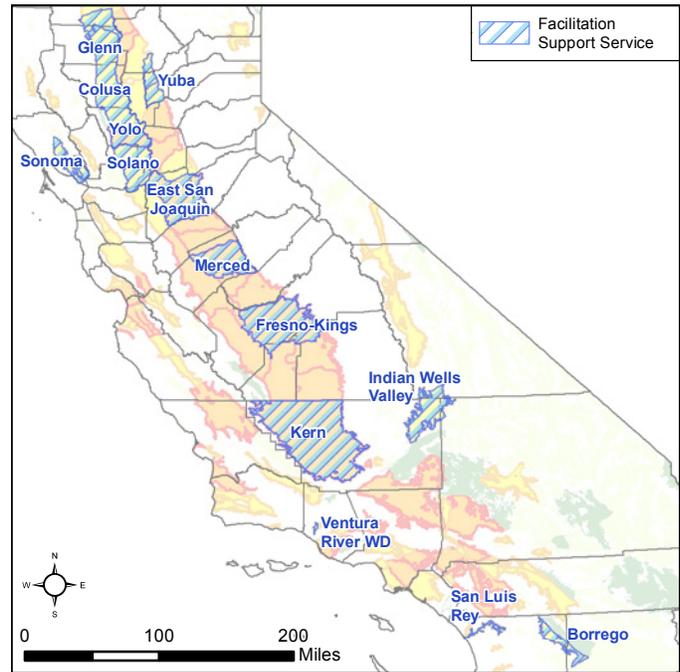


Figure 4. DWR Facilitation Services to Support Groundwater Sustainability

Note: Sonoma and Kern Basin services funded by State Water Resources Control Board

Key Accomplishments for Objective 4: Assist State and GSA Alignment and Provide Financial Assistance

✓ Participation in GSA Formation

By June 30, 2017, the SGMA requires the formation of a locally-controlled GSA in the State's high- and medium-priority groundwater basins and subbasins (basins). A GSA is responsible for developing and implementing a GSP to meet the sustainability goal of the basin.

Senate Bill (SB) 13 changed DWR's role with respect to reviewing, posting, and tracking GSA formation notices. These changes relate to: notification completeness reviews; overlapping GSA boundaries; and service area boundaries. In response to SB 13, DWR developed and revised its GSA Formation Notification Guidelines for Local Agencies that outlines the information that must be submitted by a local agency(s) after it decides to become or form a GSA(s).

DWR hosted a 90-minute webinar in November 2015 to address the SB 13 amendments to SGMA as they pertain to the formation of a GSA. Early January 2016 DWR released a GSA Formation Frequently Asked Questions Document to aid local agencies and stakeholders with the GSA formation process. The FAQ is available on the GSA Formation webpage (<http://www.water.ca.gov/groundwater/sgm/gsa.cfm>).

✓ SGWP Grant Program

The voter approved Proposition 1 authorized the legislature to appropriate \$100M in bond funds to DWR to establish a groundwater grant program (now referred to as the Sustainable Groundwater Planning (SGWP) Grant Program). Funding will be made available through competitive grants to eligible applications for groundwater programs and projects to assist with GSA formation and GSP development. Recently, DWR awarded nearly \$7 million to aid counties with stressed groundwater basins. Information about future funding solicitations will be made available on DWR's website.

Outreach

Outreach is critical to the successful implementation of SGMA. DWR is reaching out to various organizations and groups to discuss all aspects of SGMA implementation. DWR's team regularly attends workshops and conferences to communicate and educate citizens across the State about SGMA implementation and DWR's role.

Advisory Groups

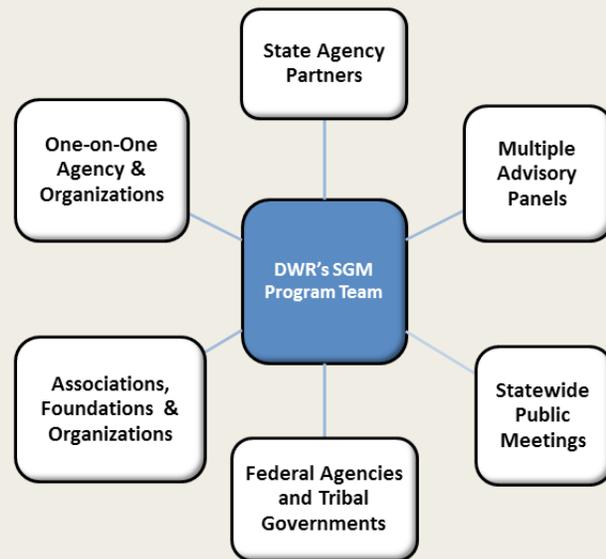
DWR conducted more than 60 advisory group meetings and several public meetings across the State to better understand issues and collect information associated with the development of regulations for groundwater basin boundary modifications and for GSPs and Alternatives.

One such advisory group is the Practitioners Advisory Panel (PAP). The PAP consists of a group of practitioners representing various local stakeholder groups that will implement SGMA in their respective basins. These panel members are representatives of potential decision makers and GSAs. DWR also works with a Tribal Advisory Group (TAG). TAG includes tribal leadership, subject matter experts, and technical and non-technical members of local, academic, and tribal governments that are actively engaged in local groundwater management and will be key in local implementation of SGMA.

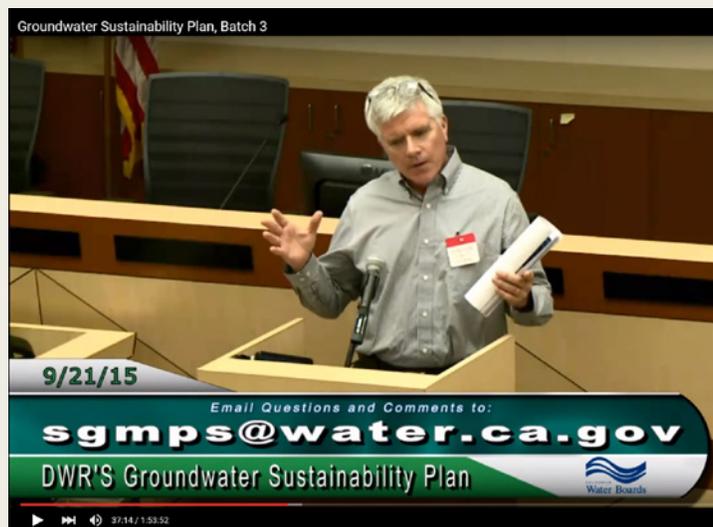
DWR also continues to engage the following advisory groups: Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) Advisory Group, Association of California Water Agencies, Northern California Water Association, San Joaquin Tributaries Authority, San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority, Central Coast area, Rural County Representatives of California & California State Association of Counties, Agricultural Advisory Group, and Tulare Lake Hydrologic Region Group.

Newsletter

In November 2015, DWR's Sustainable Groundwater Management Program launched a bi-weekly newsletter distributed to approximately 1,000 subscribers via the SGMP Listserv. The newsletter includes the latest updates from the Program and links to new tools, such as the Basin Boundary Modification Request System.



DWR's Sustainable Groundwater Management (SGM) Program Team communicates with various organizations and advisory groups about SGMA implementation.



DWR utilizes webcasts for important communications about SGMA implementation.

Next Steps

DWR continues to implement SGMA and the following activities are already underway.

Water Available for Groundwater Replenishment

As part of the SGMA legislation, Water Code §10729 (c), DWR is required to prepare and publish a report by December 31, 2016, that presents DWR's best estimate, based on available information, of water available for replenishment of groundwater in the State. DWR has developed an issue paper highlighting relevant sections from the SGMA legislation, a summary of recent outreach, potential technical options and questions to consider. Information from communication and outreach efforts will be used to develop a workplan to complete this report.

In April 2016, DWR released a public draft white paper describing concepts, challenges, uncertainties, and a summary of the potential technical approach to estimate water available for groundwater replenishment. The draft report on Water Available for Groundwater Replenishment will be released in September 2016 for public review and comment. The final report will be released by December 31, 2016.

Bulletin 118 Interim Update

Bulletin 118 presents a summary of groundwater basin information in California. DWR is currently working on an Interim Update to Bulletin 118 that will be published in 2017.

Best Management Practices

The SGMA directs DWR to identify best management practices (BMPs) for the sustainable management of groundwater basins. By January 1, 2017, DWR will publish BMPs for the sustainable management of groundwater on its Internet Web site. Local agencies and interested parties will have opportunities to provide necessary input to DWR during the development of the BMPs before they are finalized and adopted.



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