



870 Greenfield Ave. • Hanford, CA 93230  
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California Department of Water Resources  
Attn: Lauren Bisnett, Public Affairs Office  
P.O. Box 942836  
Sacramento, CA 94236

Re: Draft GSP Emergency Regulations Public Comment

Dear Ms. Bisnett:

Kings County Farm Bureau (KCFB) represents more than 600 agriculture producers in the county, all of whom will be affected by the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act and the Groundwater Sustainability Plan Emergency Regulation. We support efforts being made to ensure the long-term sustainability of the agriculture industry that will allow growers to produce affordable food and fiber for years to come, and appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Draft GSP Emergency Regulations.

#### ARTICLE 1. General Provisions

§ 350.2 - While supporting the acknowledgment of DWR that all GSAs may not possess all information or data necessary to complete a GSP by the initial GSP submittal date, KCFB is concerned with the terms "sufficient reliable information" and "sufficient credible information." These terms appear flexible and unclear as to what the language means or to what standard it applies. This scenario would allow for inconsistent applications and a lack of direction to GSAs.

#### ARTICLE 2. Definitions

##### § 351 - Coordinating Agency

SGMA does not require Coordinating Agencies, and while we understand the desire for one point of contact for each basin, requiring Coordinating Agencies will likely create a hierarchy in each basin, which may create an undue additional burden on a GSA. We are requesting that DWR remove Coordinating Agency from the regulation entirely.

We suggest adding a definition for "basin" and "subbasin," or including reference to Bulletin 118 definitions.

#### ARTICLE 4. Procedures

353.4(b) The sub-article states that all materials must be accompanied by a "penalty of law statement," and the person signing must make inquiry of the "persons who manage the system or those persons directly responsible for gathering the information." SGMA does not require this statement, and "penalty of law" is not defined. It is our suggestion this requirement be removed.



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ARTICLE 5.

SUBARTICLE 1. § 354.8(a)(5) - Requiring locations of all wells in a basin is onerous and overbearing. This information is not currently available and would require countless man hours and financial resources. If not removed from the regulation, DWR should provide a manageable time frame allowing mapping requirement deadline after plan implementation.

SUBARTICLE 4. Monitoring Networks

Ensuring basins do not negatively impact each other is important; however, requiring a GSA to determine the ability of adjacent basins to meet sustainability goals is onerous and not in line with the local control intentions of SGMA.

§ 354.34(c) - This allows a GSP to incorporate information and data from existing sources. The Draft Regulation should allow for data and information provided by existing programs throughout the regulation.

ARTICLE 6

§ 355.2 - Should a GSP be found conditionally adequate, DWR would allow 180 days to correct deficiencies. We are of the opinion that DWR should allow a longer period, provided a GSA can justify the extension and provide a plan to address deficiencies.

ARTICLE 7

§ 356.12 - This shows that DWR understands that conditions will change in GSAs over time. Allowing a GSA to modify its GSP after review by DWR recognizes the need for change of the 20-year implementation period and allows the GSA to adapt actively and manage the GSA while maintaining local control.

ARTICLE 8.

As described in this article, Coordinating Agreements should be stricken from the regulation. Coordination between GSAs located in the same basin will be necessary to achieve the requirements of SGMA. DWR should not require an agreement between competing agencies, but should allow each basin to determine its coordination strategy. Additionally, all references to "Submitting Agency" should be removed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bettencourt".

Josh Bettencourt  
President