

**Groundwater Sustainability Plan
Draft Regulations**

Via e-mail to: sgmps@water.ca.gov

Subject: Draft GSP Emergency Regulations Public Comment

DATE GROUNDWATER
SUSTAINABILITY PLAN
REGULATION COMMENT
RECEIVED BY DWR
03/25/2016

Dear Ms. Bisnett,

On behalf of Navy Region Southwest, thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act Draft Emergency Regulations for Groundwater Sustainability Plans and Alternatives. Navy Region Southwest manages the Navy bases throughout California and has been strong supporters of the three bills that created SGMA in 2014. While you think of the Navy and the coastline, our support was based on the critical mission support groundwater provides for installations including NAS Lemoore in the San Joaquin Valley and NWS China Lake in the Indian Wells Valley. Based on the testimony we provided, SB 1168 by Senator Pavley included within its provisions explicit recognition of the federal government and military as a beneficial use and user of groundwater. SGMA thereby requires these be specifically considered in the SGMA process.

We are requesting that the Department of Water Resources provide a definition of beneficial use and groundwater users in these regulations. This will ensure all plans prepared through this process recognize and address the uses and users specifically recognized by the legislature. We understand that sometimes things can get lost from statute to regulation to implementation and this is just too important to our mission to risk that. We continue to support efforts for this ongoing process, and reinforce the need for SGMA to proceed in a timely manner to protect our diminishing groundwater resources before it is too late.

Our point of contact is Randal Friedman who can be reached at (916) 646-4112.

Sincerely,
Kathryn Ostapuk

Navy Region Southwest
Regulatory Affairs