

Meeting Notes

April 12, 2016

Groundwater Sustainability Program

*Sustainable Groundwater Management Program
Prepared by the Center for Collaborative Policy, CSUS*

Purpose

These notes summarize a workshop conducted by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) to provide information to Tribes and water agencies in the Central California region about Tribal engagement in groundwater management planning under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). The goals of the meeting were to:

- *Update on California groundwater regulations
 - *Discussion on how the regulations relate to Tribes.**
- *Obtain feedback from Tribes on needed tools for reaching groundwater sustainability statewide.*
- *Update on DWR and Tribal Advisory Group development of Best Management Practices for GSA and Tribal engagement, collaboration, and coordination.*

Introduction

The following is a list of Tribes and agencies represented at this meeting. The names of specific individuals who were in attendance are provided in the attached sign in sheet.

- Department of Water Resources, Sacramento office
- Department of Water Resources, South Central Region (Fresno)
- State Water Resources Control Board
- North Fork Rancheria of Mono Indians of California
- Santa Rosa Indian Community of the Santa Rosa Rancheria
- Table Mountain Rancheria of California
- Tule River Indian Tribe of the Tule River Reservation
- Kings County Water District
- Kings River Conservation District

List of Acronyms

DWR	Department of Water Resources
GSA	Groundwater Sustainability Agency
GSP	Groundwater Sustainability Plan
SGMA	Sustainable Groundwater Management Act
SGMP	Sustainable Groundwater Management Program

Upcoming Tribal SGMA Informational Workshops

April 28, 2016 – Valley Center, CA (Southern Region Tribes)

May 12, 2016 – Coyote Valley, CA (Northern Region Tribes)

Issues

- A. Sustainable Groundwater Management Act
- B. DWR Groundwater Sustainability Program
- C. DWR GSP Draft Regulations
- D. Website Tools And Information Center
- E. Tribal Involvement Roundtable Discussion

Attachments Enclosed

- Appendix A, Participant List
- Appendix B, PowerPoints and Handouts

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ACTION ITEMS

1. Kings River Conservation District and Kings County Water Agency: **send contact information to DWR, and to include in this meeting summary.**
2. DWR: **develop a matrix that communicates the benefits to Tribes for participating in groundwater management planning and potential negative outcomes for not engaging.**
3. Tool for Local Agencies with recommendations on engaging with Tribes on GSA formation and GSP development.

A. Welcome and Introductions

Anecita Agustinez, Tribal Policy Advisor for the Department of Water Resources (DWR), welcomed participants. She invited them to introduce themselves and state their reasons for attending.

Reasons for attending expressed by Tribal participants included:

- To gather information about the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) and Tribal rights
- To learn about funding possibilities through Proposition 1 and SGMA
- To expand knowledge about SGMA and groundwater
- To understand how SGMA impacts to Tribes.

Anecita Agustinez explained that Tribes are not mandated to participate in SGMA, but that there are benefits to participating, including access to funding. DWR invited local water authorities to participate in this meeting to meet the Tribes, and help encourage collaboration moving forward. She further noted that Tribes can contact the local office of DWR, including Tribal Liaison Christa Collin, for questions on funding and technical assistance.

Anecita Agustinez provided information about the statewide Monthly Drought Tribal Consultation Calls that inform the Governor's Drought Task Force. Anecita Agustinez highlighted that these Consultation Calls are a good place to raise drought related issues and emergencies.

- A number of agencies participate including Cal Office of Emergency Services (OES), State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB), DWR, Cal Fire, Indian Health Service (IHS), federal partners, and others.
- The calls address drought related issues like tree mortality and marijuana cultivation that require emergency funding.
- Ten Tribes have declared a drought emergency, which is a way to elevate drought emergencies to the state level.

Anecita Agustinez clarified the role of DWR to develop emergency regulations and guidance on the implementation of SGMA. Jessica Bean, State Water Resources Control Board, confirmed the Board's

role is to step in where groundwater resources are not managed properly (For example: where GSAs do not achieve sustainability milestones).

B. Sustainable Groundwater Management Act – Updates

Sustainable Groundwater Management Program and Tribal Participation

Benjamin Gooding, DWR, provided an overview of SGMA. Key points to this presentation included:

- Tribal participation is encouraged, but not mandated by SGMA.
 - However, Tribes and/or Tribal members may be required to comply with SGMA areas of land held in fee.
 - Section 10720.3(c) defines how Tribes may participate as members of Groundwater Sustainable Agencies (GSAs).
 - Federally Recognized Tribes can participate through a legal document such as a Joint Powers Authority (JPA) or Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). Outreach to California Native American Tribes is required by SGMA.
 - Every GSA that forms under SGMA is required to contact the Tribes in their groundwater basin, both federally recognized and unrecognized, as beneficial users of groundwater.
 - Advisory Committees provide another way for Tribes to participate. Advisory Committees allow for input after GSAs are formed but before they finalize Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs).
- Groundwater Basin Mapping
 - Bulletin 118 is the most recent comprehensive groundwater basin map
 - Basins are currently mapped by alluvium
 - SGMA does not apply to areas outside of these basins
- SGMA key intended outcomes
 - SGMA requires that GSPs be adopted for high and medium priority basins.
 - Adjudicated basins are exempt from developing GSPs. They only require minimal reporting.
 - Low or very low priority basins have different requirements from high priority basins.
 - Communities in the Central Valley are in high priority basins.
- There is a groundwater management tool on the DWR website that has a map of the current basin boundaries. It includes a Tribal lands layer, as well as priority basin layers. The map is interactive, Geographic Information Systems (GIS)-based, and you can zoom in for detail.
- Timetable for Sustainable Management
 - 2017: Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) must be identified.
 - 2020: Basins in critical overdraft must be covered by a GSP.
 - 2022: Other high and medium priority basins not in overdraft must have GSPs.
 - 2040: Each high and medium priority basin must achieve sustainability.
- SGMA provides new management authority and management tools for GSAs

DRAFT Groundwater Sustainability Plan Emergency Regulations Guide

Benjamin Gooding, DWR, explained the four phases of GSP development and implementation. Key Points to this presentation included: Refer to the Guide: http://www.water.ca.gov/groundwater/sgm/pdfs/GSP_Regulations_Guide.pdf for more information.

Note: DWR is currently reviewing public comments on these draft regulations. The final version may incorporate some changes.

- The General Principles that will guide evaluation of GSPs are:
 - Whether it achieves the established sustainability goal for entire basin in 20 years
 - It cannot adversely affect an adjacent basin.
 - Meets a substantial compliance standard.
 - Provides a description of basin-wide governance to reach sustainability.
 - Establishes a timeline and priority for filling data gaps.
 - Implements an adaptive management process.
- Roles and responsibilities of the implementing agencies are:
 - State Water Board: enforcing agency
 - DWR: regulating and assisting agency
 - GSA: planning and implementing GSP
- There are 4 phases of GSP development and implementation. Mr. Gooding reviewed key activities, roles, considerations, and dates at each phase.
 - Phase 1: GSA formation and coordination
 - Realignment of basins, where applicable
 - Basin governance is established through formation of GSAs
 - Phase 2: GSP Preparation and Submission
 - GSAs develop and adopt GSPs
 - Phase 3: GSP Review and Evaluation
 - DWR staff review and evaluate GSPs to determine adequacy
 - Phase 4: Implementation and Reporting
 - GSAs develop annual reports and GSP assessments every five years during implementation of the GSPs

Additional details for each Phase are as follows:

Phase 1: GSA formation and coordination

- GSAs are forming now.
 - If Tribes seek to be part of a GSA, now is the time to engage and communicate with local agencies forming GSAs.
 - Tribes may want to participate in other ways.
- Highlights for Tribes: Governance configurations
 - Several different governance configurations are possible for GSAs.
 - Knowing the basin boundaries, and where they lie in relation to Tribal allotments and fee lands, will help Tribes determine the most appropriate way for them to participate in SGMA. DWR can help Tribes determine this, for example, through mapping and basin boundary modification/review assistance.

- Tribes might also want to participate on advisory committees or as stakeholders in basins that include ancestral territories for which the Tribe does not hold trust lands or fee title land.
- Key dates
 - Basin boundary modifications due March 31, 2016
 - GSP regulations adopted June 1, 2016
 - Alternative to GSPs due January 1, 2017
 - GSAs covering an entire basin formed – June 30, 2017

Phase 2: GSP Preparation and Submission by GSAs

- This is a key point of Tribal engagement, after GSAs are formed and before GSPs are completed.
- During this phase GSAs need to coordinate with adjacent hydraulically connected basins and with relevant land use agencies.
- GSPs must include a “Basin Setting”
 - Working with Tribes will help GSAs develop more accurate basin settings.
 - The “basin setting” describes the basin’s groundwater conditions in a comprehensive way. This includes the basin’s physical characteristics and dynamic conditions such as changes in water supply, demand, and climatic conditions.
 - Dennis Mills, Kings County Water District, noted that the Tulare Lake Sub-basin may be covered by 4-5 GSAs.
- DWR will provide local assistance with development of GSPs, including:
 - Funding support
 - Facilitation
 - Technical support
 - Development of best management practices
 - Water supply options for replenishment
 - Bulletin 118 update (basin boundaries)
 - Consultation with GSAs

Phase 3: GSP Review and Evaluation

- DWR will review submitted GSPs, using methodology and criteria laid out in the regulations.
- This phase includes a public comment period.
- Key Dates
 - GSP submittal open July 1, 2016
 - GSP submittal due 2020 or 2022
 - Review dates and interim milestones – every 5 years
 - 2040 sustainability goal

Phase 4 GSP Implementation and Reporting

- GSAs will implement their GSPs and conduct activities including: GSA and GSP governance, engage stakeholders and land use agencies, implement projects and compliance actions, and data management and analysis.
- GSAs will submit annual and five-year reports to DWR.
- DWR will review the annual reports and five-year reports for compliance.

Discussion, comments, and questions

Facilitator Stephanie Lucero invited participation during and after the presentation:

- Christina McDonald, Northfork Rancheria, noted that the overlap of boundaries for SGMA and Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) is confusing. Later in the morning, DWR demonstrated an online mapping tool that can help clarify these boundaries.
- Tribal lands that are farther up in the mountains may not overlie the basins or sub-basins that SGMA applies to. The sub-basins are usually under foothill and valley floor regions.
- What if a Tribe doesn't participate as a GSA member?
 - GSAs have to reach out to engage Tribes and ask how they want to participate. If Tribes say no, GSAs will do their best to manage without the Tribe's input. The state cannot force a Tribe to participate.
 - Tribal participation will help the state and GSAs fill in data gaps for water use on Tribal land. Without that information, agencies will have to guess.
- What happens at the 5 year milestone if GSAs are not in compliance, and the GSAs blame Tribal water use for noncompliance?
 - Jessica Bean, SWRCB, replied that SWRCB will step in if there is non-compliance. They will investigate and do research to find out what is happening, and come up with a solution. The question points to the benefits of engaging early.
 - Dennis Mills, Kings County Water District, pointed out that the GSAs and not the Tribes will be responsible for non-compliance. That's why they will want to talk to Tribes, to make sure they have the correct data.
- Victor Silvas, Sr, Tule River: Tribal participation can help protect Tribal assets. However, funding for GSAs is not available to Tribes. Tribes participate in the County's emergency drought committee, but funding to the County does not come to Tribes. Tribes have to go after their own funding.
 - Anecita Agustinez: Some Proposition 1 funds for Integrated Regional Water Management are available to Tribes, under Chapter 7. To qualify, Tribes must be part of the monitoring process.
 - Many Tribes, particularly Sierra Tribes, have developed sustainable practices through forest management grants.
 - Proposition 1, Chapter 10 funds, are for groundwater sustainability.

- Technical assistance funding for counties and GSAs was not available to Tribes, specifically. The TA funding from SWRCB provided funding to non-profits to provide GSA formation technical assistance to counties.
- The focus of both IRWM and SGMA is regional collaboration. So accessing those funds requires being part of the collaborative effort.

C. DWR Sustainable Groundwater Management – Online, Mapping, and Technical Assistance Tools

The path to follow to access this website from DWR’s home webpage (www.water.ca.gov) is:

- DWR homepage → Issues Tab → Planning Tab → Sustainable Groundwater Management
- Access the “Groundwater Information Center” on the tan-colored side-bar

Water Management Planning Tool

Link: <http://water.ca.gov/groundwater/boundaries.cfm>

Chris Olvera, DWR, demonstrated various tools from DWR’s online Groundwater Information Center. The Water Management Planning tool is a web-based application to assist local agencies in water management planning efforts. It is an interactive map application that allows users to overlay numerous Geographic Information Systems (GIS) layers onto a map of California, and provides access to more information about those data layers. The Water Management Planning Tool is intended to assist local agencies with their responsibilities related to the California Water Plan, Integrated Regional Water Management, and the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act and as an informational tool for all interested parties.

Accessing and using the Water Management Planning Tool:

- Links:
 - The planning tool is available through the DWR Groundwater website at: <http://water.ca.gov/groundwater/boundaries.cfm>
 - The direct link is: <https://gis.water.ca.gov/app/boundaries/>
- Some of the boundaries and layers shared include:
 - DWR Regional Office Service Areas
 - Tribal lands
 - CASGEM Groundwater basin prioritization (high/med/low/very low)
 - Water agencies (highlights overlaps)
 - Bulletin 118 basins
 - Bulletin 118 is a DWR document that provides information about groundwater basins and sub-basins, including boundaries, hydrology, hydro geologic characterization, etc.
 - IRWM regions
 - Previous groundwater management plans under A.B. 3030, S.B. 1938, A.B. 359

- Various base maps
- Disadvantaged Community Tracts

Note:

- Proposition 1 funding under S.B. 208 enables grants to disadvantaged communities (\$50M), that DWR will administer. Tribal governments may apply. Anecita Agustinez encourages people to look into that funding source. You would have to participate in IRWM, but can be a direct recipient.
- Navigating the tool
 - If you click on the map, information about the selected layer will pop up, for the area of the map you click on
 - A box on the right provides information about the layers and links for more information.

GSA's Interactive Map

Link: http://water.ca.gov/groundwater/sgm/gsa_map.cfm

This online mapping tool can help Tribes identify the relevant GSA(s) for their area. It shows the location of local agencies that decided to form GSAs. It also provides a link to GSA submittals that have additional information about GSA outreach to Tribes, and contact information for GSAs.

- Interactive Map Layers discussed:
 - GSAs and overlaps
 - Adjudicated areas
 - Bulletin 118 groundwater basins
 - CASGEM prioritization
 - Counties
 - GSA submittal, which will include whatever information the GSA included about Tribal outreach
- The GSA Interactive Map webpage includes a link to the GSA Formation Table.
GSA Formation Table: http://water.ca.gov/groundwater/sgm/gsa_table.cfm#table
 - Through this table users can see who has submitted GSA applications and access the submittals. DWR updates the table periodically.

Basin Boundary Assessment Tool

Link: <http://water.ca.gov/groundwater/sgm/bbat.cfm>

The Groundwater Basin Boundary Assessment Tool is intended to assist local agencies with their planning efforts related to basin boundary modifications. It includes very detailed geologic data.

Groundwater Information Center Interactive Map Application

Link: http://water.ca.gov/groundwater/MAP_APP/index.cfm

This tool provides GIS layers containing geospatially-referenced groundwater-related information on:

- Water levels
- Boundaries
- Subsidence

Discussion, comments, and questions

- The GSAs Interactive Map shows that many areas do not have GSAs formed.
 - Dennis Mills, Kings County Water District: Agencies learned from early mistakes in trying to form too quickly without coordination with neighbors, and are now being more cautious and making sure they have done those steps.
 - If your area does not have a GSA yet, you can talk to the County, or local districts, or Regional Office of DWR to find out who is preparing to submit or considering formation as a GSA.

DWR Technical Assistance Resources

DWR encouraged Tribes to utilize DWR Regional Offices. These offices can provide mapping resources and access to region-specific data about water resources.

DWR South Central Office provided attendees with a packet of region-specific information to help with GSPs or groundwater planning. Materials in the packet included:

- Basin acreages
- Water sources (from California Water Plan)
- Water use by water year and type
- Water budget
- Water budget projections out 50 years
- California Water Plan Update 2013 – Vol 2

GAB: The Groundwater Act Blog

Link: <http://groundwater.ca.gov/bloghome.cfm>

GAB is a central hub for meetings, workshops, and other information regarding SGMA.

D. DWR Proposition 1 Initiative Updates

Anecita Agustinez provided an update on the Sustainable Groundwater Management Program (SGMP) and DWR's role in this program.

- DWR's approach to Tribal engagement under SGMA includes financial assistance and Tribal outreach, specifically:
 - Funding through Proposition 1 water bond
 - Tribal advisory/technical advisory group (TAG) on the SGMP
 - The TAG is one of many advisory groups advising on SGMA
 - Other communication and outreach to Tribes, including one-on-one meetings and through formal Tribal Consultation in addition to Tribal specific workshops.
- The Proposition 1 Water Bond passed in 2014 authorized over \$7 Billion for water projects in California, including groundwater projects.
 - The funds can be used for projects in a number of categories: clean and safe drinking water, watershed restoration/protection, regional water security, statewide system operation, water recycling and advanced treatment, groundwater sustainability, and flood management.
 - Various agencies provide funds within various programs, all with different applications, guidelines, timelines
 - For IRWM funds, Tribes are considered an eligible entity, but they need to participate with local IRWM regions.
 - Groundwater: funds for SGMA implementation are not yet out. They will include:
 - \$800 Million to SWRCB to administer, to fund groundwater quality projects
 - \$100 Million to DWR to administer, to fund groundwater planning and projects
 - DWR will provide technical assistance to help Tribes to apply for grants.
- Anecita Agustinez noted that funding for both IRWM and groundwater programs are focused at the local level through state bond funds and grants. That is why collaboration is important and why Tribes should engage in those local GSA structures and GSP development. Tribes also need to be part of the monitoring to be eligible for SGMA and IRWM funding.
- DWR SGMP Tribal Advisory Group
 - Includes statewide Tribal membership
 - Tribes in adjudicated basins are included though the adjudication basin their Tribal lands may reside in adjudicated basins are exempt from SGMA.
 - Tasked with development of technical assistance and outreach for Tribes.
 - Has provided testimony to legislature on status of Tribal engagement in SGMA.
 - Has identified SGMA implementation issues for Tribes in a list of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs), addressing questions such as the following:
 - Does SGMA apply to federally recognized Tribes? Non-federally recognized Tribes?

- What are the Tribal concerns with a utilizing a joint powers authority?
- Can a tribe choose to be a GSA or exercise powers of a GSA?
- Does SGMA affect Tribal water rights?
- What opportunities are there for Tribal governments to provide input during SGMA implementation?
- Do local authorities have an understanding of what is “Tribal Law”?
 - The TAG developed a proposed definition of “Tribal Law” – for agencies/GSAs

Discussion and comments:

- This is first time that DWR has invited non-Tribal participants to one of these workshops.
- Kings County River Conservation District commented that it would help water agencies to have more info on the Tribal engagement requirements and components, process, and best management practices that are developed through the TAG and other SGMA meetings and workshops.

E. Developing Best Management Practices for GSA/Tribal Engagement

This session focused on hearing from Tribes about how they would like to be engaged. Local Agencies in attendance asked questions on appropriate process for engaging with Tribes.

Emily Alejandrino: DWR wants Tribal input on the Best Management Practices (BMPs). The DWR will follow this timeline for development of BMPs for Tribal engagement:

- The SGMA team will begin work to develop BMPs for Tribal engagement in June 2016, after the draft GSP guidelines are published.
- DWR aims to publish the BMPs in January 2017.

Anecita Agustinez emphasized that DWR wants to hear from Tribes on:

- How would Tribes like to be noticed by the Counties?
- What constitutes proper “notice”?
- How should GSAs make initial contact with Tribes?

Discussion, comments, and questions

- Tribal notice and outreach:
 - Original notice should go through the Tribal Chairperson in deference to sovereignty and common practices for government-to-government communication.
 - It is good practice to send a copy or email copy of these communications to the Tribal Administrator. The Administrator oversees the Tribal government’s departments. Local

Agencies may also want to copy or email relevant staff like Tribal Environmental Protection staff, utilities staff, etc.

- For questions and information exchange following original notice, local agencies should go through the Tribal Council and/or delegated staff after hearing from the Tribal leadership.
 - Staff will typically write a report or meet with the Council before decisions are made.
- Best approaches to Tribal outreach:
 - Local agencies would value a guide to Tribal engagement that includes the dos and don'ts of Tribal outreach.
 - Don't exclude the Tribal Chairperson in communications
 - Always address your initial communication to the Tribal Chairperson
 - Don't show up to a Council meeting and expect to be able to speak without first making arrangements to address the Council
 - Do develop communication with Tribal Council staff level to request placement on a Tribal Council agenda
 - Develop an agenda in advance through communication with Tribal Council staff
- Finding Tribal contacts. There are several ways that counties, water agencies, GSAs, and others can find contact information for local Tribes.
 - Tribal Directory: Cynthia Gomez, the Governor's Tribal Advisor, compiled a listing of all Tribes statewide, available online
 - To view the directory online (or, if you are a tribe, submit changes):
<http://tribalgovtaffairs.ca.gov/Regions/index.html#AccessUpdate>
 - Also available on this website are maps showing geographic locations of California Tribes.
 - To download a spreadsheet of this directory:
https://docs.google.com/spreadsheet/pub?key=0AmA4Eb9Gb_gxdG5IXzhqSzlYXIPNXVXdWVpWW5VUVE&output=csv
 - Also posted on this website are maps of the geographic locations of California Tribes.
 - Tribal websites typically list contact information for Tribal leadership, administrators, and departments
 - Office of the Governor's Tribal Advisor has a master contacts list California Tribes.
<http://www.tribalgovtaffairs.ca.gov/>
 - Click on "View Tribal Contact Information?"
<http://www.tribalgovtaffairs.ca.gov/Regions/index.html#AccessUpdate>

Anecita Agustinez discussed ways that Tribes can reach out to agencies and/or ensure that GSAs and others have the correct contact information:

- Tribal Staff can reach out to GSAs, counties, water agencies, etc., for inclusion on information distribution lists for interested persons.
- Tribes can submit changes online to the Tribal Directory maintained by the Governor's Office of the Tribal Advisor:
<http://tribalgovtaffairs.ca.gov/Regions/index.html#AccessUpdate>
- The Governor's Office of the Tribal Advisor has posted an online directory of Tribal Liaisons in the state agencies:
http://tribalgovtaffairs.ca.gov/pdf/TribalLiaisonContactList_Mar2016.pdf
- Tribes can request formal government-to-government consultation at any time with state agencies and with local agencies.
- DWR focuses on getting to know Tribes, for example through these workshops
 - DWR will also do one-on-one meetings with Tribal staff to share tools and resources.
 - DWRs goal is to continue with quarterly meetings to keep Tribes informed with new developments.

F. Roundtable Discussions

The Roundtable provided opportunity for discussion and general question on SGMA issues of concern for Tribes and local agencies. Participants also discussed how and why Tribes may be involved in GSAs. There was also some discussion on related planning efforts.

- Local GSA formation and Tribal participation
 - Governance structures such as Joint Powers Authorities are currently under development, it is a key time to be involved. If Tribes want to participate, they should consider getting in touch now with those forming GSAs.
 - GSA formation is proceeding in different ways and varies from area to area. Tribes can contact local districts and ask how they are involved or what they know about how a GSA formation within the basin. Regional DWR offices and counties can also provide information.
 - Tribes can check the GSA formation table. Not all GSAs have submitted their notices:
http://water.ca.gov/groundwater/sgm/gsa_table.cfm#table
 - \$10 Million of initial SGMA funding will go to counties for GSA formation. That might include Tribal outreach at the county level.
- Timing and information sharing
 - Information shared by Tribes can benefit the GSP planning process.
 - However, GSAs are just forming and cannot yet take action on this information. SGMA limits GSA authority until after the GSP is submitted.
- Question: Have Tribes ever been involved with groundwater management planning before?

- Dennis Mills, Kings County Water District: laws first passed in the 1990s required agencies to develop groundwater management plans. SGMA, the new law passed in 2014, requires significantly more in terms of groundwater management planning, including formation of GSAs and development of GSPs with new sustainability requirements. Previously, Tribes were not typically engaged to develop groundwater management plans.
- Tribes are not obligated to participate in SGMA. But without Tribal participation, GSAs will not have complete information about groundwater use in their area.
- Specifically, a GSA needs to know the water balance for its area – total water pumping and recharge. *Without complete information, GSAs may not have data needed to calculate the sustainable yield or track how much is being used or recharged.*
 - Most cities and other entities report that information, and are gathering more information about agricultural groundwater users also.
 - The goal is to protect confidentiality of information about individual groundwater use, while providing enough information to satisfy state entities in showing efforts and outcomes to reach sustainability.
- Working with GSAs can help plan for and address issues the Tribes are dealing with.
- Advisory Committees
 - Dennis Mills, Kings County Water District, suggested advisory committees as a good option for Tribal engagement, but engagement outside this structure is also possible.
 - Santa Rosa Rancheria expressed interest in learning more about Advisory committees
 - This is a potential BMP for Tribes to consider, i.e. whether an Advisory Committee is a useful process for a Tribe to engage with?
- Question: Are there negative impacts for Tribes that do not wish to participate? Our Tribe is self-sufficient. We manage our water and monitor all of the results. The Council deals with and fixes any water problems.
 - Emily Alejandrino, DWR, stated that GSAs need to know all the pieces of the puzzle to reach sustainability.
 - Jessica Bean, SWRCB, stated that the concern would be if a GSA, moving forward without complete information, underestimates how much water the Tribe is using. If so, overall water levels could be drawn down, which could affect everybody's use.
 - Anecita Agustinez agreed that most Tribes already have good management practices. Ideally a GSA can incorporate that information. It is also a good opportunity for Tribes to clarify current and long term needs and understand if those needs are in sync with the aquifer.
 - A Tribal participant noted that the possibility of running out of water is scary and motivating and is causing them to pay more attention to their groundwater.
- Other than overall impacts on the sustainable management of the subbasin, the impact to a Tribe for not participating in a GSA is likely minimal. However there are advantages to participating:

- More information for contingency planning.
- More information on the rest of the aquifer.
- Being part of the dialog and making sure the region is sustainable, and that there is water for the Tribe's future needs and goals, such as ecosystem restoration.
- A Tribal participant requested a matrix showing the benefits of involvement and negative impacts for not engaging with the GSA, GSP, or stand-alone Tribal water management plan. This would be useful for Tribal representatives or staff to present to their Tribes. The matrix could indicate:
 - Benefits by land type (fee land, trust land, etc.)
 - Recommended next steps.
 - Resources.
 - Possible negative outcomes for not engaging.
- Dennis Mills, Kings County Water District, explained that Tribal use of water may be tiny compared to other municipal and agricultural areas. It may be smaller than the margin of error for measuring water use amounts.
 - Given that, Tribal participation is probably not essential to protect that water use.
 - But water agencies are glad to have the interaction and conversation with Tribes and to have better data on water use in the basin.
 - Dennis Mills, Kings County Water District, later noted that Tribes may have an interest engaging with GSA and GSP development for water quality reasons.
- If Tribes do not want to participate:
 - Ideally they should send a letter to the GSA indicating that they are not interested in participating.
 - The GSA then knows the status, and can show DWR that they did due diligence in reaching out.
- Question: Is California Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) involved in SGMA?
 - No, OES does not have a formal role, however, DWR works closely with them on drought emergencies and other issues. Local outreach is most important. If your Tribe developed a local drought resolution, we encourage you to participate in the biweekly Cal OES outreach calls for the Drought Task Force.
 - Note: that GSAs will not have authority to address drought emergencies until completion of the GSP in 2020.
- The Governor's Office of Planning and Research is updating S.B. 18 guidelines for consultation with California Tribes during planning processes to protect cultural resources.
 - Comment: Dennis Mills urges caution on rule changes that impact the way that GSAs are required to implement SGMA since they can delay the implementation process.

Closing

Stephanie Lucero reviewed the action items and highlights from the roundtable discussions. Anecita Agustinez thanked the attendees for taking time to participants in the workshop and expressed gratitude towards the Santa Rosa Rancheria for hosting the workshop, and look forward to opportunities to work together in the future.

Appendix A. Participants List

NAME	AFFILIATION
Tribes	
Samuel Elizondo	Table Mountain Rancheria
Santa Garcia	Santa Rosa Rancheria
Babs Makinde	Tule River Tribe
Christina McDonald	North Fork Rancheria of Mono Indians of California
Katie Parra	North Fork Rancheria of Mono Indians of California
Norman Quinn	Santa Rosa Rancheria
Victor Silvas, Sr.	Tule River Tribe
Richard Thomas	Santa Rosa Rancheria
Wayne Wilson	Santa Rosa Rancheria
Local Agency	
Dennis Mills	Kings River Water District
Cristel Tufenkijan	Kings River Conservation District
State Staff	
Anecita Agustinez	DWR – Sacramento
Emily Alejandrino	DWR – Sacramento
Jessica Bean	State Water Resources Control Board
Christa Collin	DWR – South Central Region
Siran Eryasian	DWR – South Central Region
Greg Farley	DWR – Sacramento
Benjamin Gooding	DWR – South Central Region
Christopher Olvera	DWR – South Central Region
Stephanie Lucero	Center for Collaborative Policy
Sarah DiVittorio	Center for Collaborative Policy

Appendix B. PowerPoints and Handouts