SGMA Tribal Advisory Group Meeting:

July 27, 2021
April 21, 2021 Executive Drought Proclamation
Action #11:
Development of Groundwater Management and Drinking Water Well Principles and Strategies
Household Water Supply Shortage Reporting System

➢ Well Owners and Agencies Can Report Water Supply Shortages
  ◦ Available in English and Spanish
  ◦ Available local & State Resources

➢ Statewide Summary Information
  ◦ Map & Table

➢ Webpage:
  https://mydrywatersupply.water.ca.gov/

➢ Data available on CNRA Open Data:
  http://data.cnra.ca.gov/ search "Household"
Executive Drought Proclamations

Action 11. To ensure the potential impacts of drought on communities are anticipated and proactively addressed, the Department of Water Resources, in coordination with the Water Board, shall develop groundwater management principles and strategies to monitor, analyze, and minimize impacts to drinking water wells.
Goals

GOAL 1:
Present clear principles and vision from the state on how to anticipate and address potential drought impacts to communities who rely on drinking water wells

GOAL 2:
Develop strategies for the state, local entities, and community leaders to deploy and use for decision-making for drought management

FINAL PRODUCT:
A shared policy document capturing both principles and strategies
PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT PROCESS

Outcomes:
1. Create a public process that is:
   • Robust
   • Inclusive
   • Transparent
   • Accessible

2. Final product is:
   • Foundational
   • Vetted
   • Applicable
   • Realistic
Principles & Strategies

Principles:
- Sharing visionary statements
- Expressing what the State values
- Addressing broad policy topics

Strategies:
- Serves in a tactical manner
- Is actionable and applicable
- Provides a tool, model or approach

Listening Session Public Comments

- Who is Involved
- Drought Impacts
- Identified Barriers
- Challenges & Solutions
Public Comment Themes

- In addition to poll responses, nearly 100 comments during the June listening sessions

- Many topics are cross-cutting and fit into more than one theme

- This presentation does not capture all comments received
Equity & The Human Right to Water

- Currently, some communities lack of safe, accessible water due to drought impacts & groundwater overdraft
- Recognize groundwater dependent communities that rely on drinking water is central to the Human Right to Water
- There are known ‘hot spots’ of dry wells and water shortages
  - The state and locals need to find ways to better resource/assist those in need
- Recognize there are multiple users of groundwater and there are those that are disproportionately impacted, in particular, those in the shallower portions of an aquifer
Drought Preparedness

- What help is available for those in crisis?
- How does DWR and the SWRCB work with other emergency providers (FEMA, State & Local Emergency Services)?

There is a need for:
- Dry well reporting for known water supply shortages (currently voluntary)
- Well Protection Programs (such as well insurance)
- Assistance with management of abandoned wells to prevent potential pollution
- Broadly distributed comprehensive information on risks, funding, and resources for well owners and operators to make informed decisions
Funding & Resources

- Rethink the triggers for when to get funding support out for drought impacts
- Look at assisting with supply chain issues, related to available pumps, tanks, and drillers
- Appreciate and utilize abilities of the state and county agency staff
- Route funding through local governance
- Find ways to support private well owners who may need help with repairing or drilling new wells
  - Regardless of income status, make low-cost loans available to individuals for these purposes
Data

There is a need for:

- Better real-time groundwater supply levels/dry well and water quality data
- Transparency and accessibility of data to be made available for use
- Well drilling standards to be more accurate with well completion reports and associated data
- Good cloud-based technology to track changes in basin storage and groundwater conditions
- Developing an active well inventory statewide
- Clear linkages to the statewide MyDryWaterSupply for locals to submit and receive information and have access to available resources
Communication & Program Alignment

There is a need to:

- Create accessible and user-friendly information about groundwater
- Create a comprehensive list of state programs, funding and resources that can provide support to drinking water wells
- Clarify the State agencies and Emergency agencies nexus (both local and State)
- Provide seamless program and assistance integration of efforts
- Remove barriers and create incentives for integration of local activities
- Communicate and utilize locals for drought related response and support
NEXT STEPS

Open Discussion and Comments Today

How to continue to provide feedback:
• Please send your input via the voluntary survey
• Email us your comments at: sgmps@water.ca.gov
• Once principles and strategies are released draft, there will be a formal public comment period
• For more information visit our website:
  • https://water.ca.gov/Programs/Groundwater-Management/Drinking-Water-Principles
Sustainable Groundwater Management Program Updates
First Decisions Released on Local SGMA Plans

• Major milestone for DWR under SGMA in June 2021
• The June 3 release included:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Approved Plans</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Santa Cruz Mid-County Basin</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. 180/400 Foot Aquifer Subbasin</td>
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| Notified Locals to Consult on Plan Deficiencies     |
| (final decisions to be released by January 2022)    |
| 3. Paso Robles Subbasin                              |
| 4. Cuyama Valley Basin                               |

• Tier 2 & 3 staggered approach for releasing decisions

• Assessment information & video message:
  https://water.ca.gov/Programs/Groundwater-Management/SGMA-Groundwater-Management/Groundwater-Sustainability-Plans

• SGMA Assistance and Engagement:
  https://water.ca.gov/Programs/Groundwater-Management/Assistance-and-Engagement
Tribal Updates and Open Discussion
DWR’s Statewide Airborne Electromagnetic (AEM) Surveys

Purpose of presenting this topic today:

- Share information about project to keep Tribes informed about project implementation plan, data use, and continued outreach effort.

- AEM data collected throughout California in areas with which may contain federally and possibly non-federally recognized Tribal lands.
The AEM method

Depth of investigation: ~1,000 feet
Vertical resolution:
  Shallow: ~5-10 feet
  Deep: ~100 feet

(from Ramboll, AEM Pilot Study Report)
How can AEM data be used?

Groundwater or hydrogeologic conceptual model

Recharge areas or additional studies

Clays susceptible to compaction

High total dissolved solids
Project Implementation

- Prop 68 and General Fund – No cost to Tribes.
- Conducted in all high- and medium-priority basins, where data collection is feasible (no data collected in urban areas).
  - Approximately 80 square miles of the Tribal Trust Land Tracts in survey area.
- Data collected in coarse grid (flight lines may go through Tribal lands in some areas).
- Grid oriented to capture major geologic features and avoid noise sources.
- Data collected in defined areas over next three years.
- Data not available until ~6 months after a survey is complete.
- All data to be made publicly available.
Fall Survey Areas

- Surveys conducted in October-November
- Main survey areas:
  - Scott River, Shasta, Butte, Tulelake, & Big Valley (Siskiyou, Modoc, & Lassen counties)
    - Karuk, Quartz Valley, and possible additional Tribes
  - White Wolf, Kern, Tule, Tulare Lake, & Kaweah (Kern, Kings, & Tulare counties)
    - Santa Rosa and possible additional Tribes
- Backup survey area:
  - Napa, Sonoma, Petaluma, Santa Rosa, Ukiah, & Big Valley (Napa, Sonoma, Mendocino, & Lake counties)
    - Pomo and possible additional Tribes
Survey Schedule

AEM Survey Schedule Storymap (accessed from the AEM Webpage).

All survey dates are tentative and subject to weather and fire conditions.
Tribal Outreach

- AEM website (maps, videos, FAQs, fact sheets, etc)
- Tribal Advisory Group presentation
- Letter to Tribal leaders within survey counties
  - Contact information requested from Native American Heritage Commission
  - Introduction to the AEM method
  - How the data can be used
  - Where to get more information (recorded webinar on AEM website)
  - Offer for one-on-one meetings
- Quarterly emails to Tribal leaders (or designated contacts) regarding upcoming survey schedule
  - Include a link to AEM Survey Schedule webpage showing Tribal Trust Land Tracts.
Thank you!

Project website: https://water.ca.gov/Programs/SGMA/AEM

Questions: Katherine.Dlubac@water.ca.gov
California Water Commission

Groundwater Trading Workplan
Create flexibility for groundwater sustainability agencies to trade water **within basins** by enabling and incentivizing transactional approaches, including groundwater markets, with rules that **safeguard** natural resources, small- and medium size farms, and water supply and quality for disadvantaged communities.

**Implementing Agencies**: Department of Water Resources, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and State Water Resources Control Board
Commission’s role

• Hold public conversations.
• Focus on safeguards for groundwater trading.
• Consider accounting and allocations as it relates to trading.
• Consider role of the state in groundwater trading.
• Develop white paper with guidance for implementing agencies to advance Action 3.6.
Supporting Well-Managed Groundwater Trading

Water Commission action:
Public discussions on needed safeguards for well-managed water trading programs in support of Water Resilience Portfolio Action 3.6

State Agency activity:
- SGMA Data Viewer
  Supporting data for water budgets
- Water Budget Handbook
  Guidance for consistent water budgets and data collection
- Collaboratively developing a freely available, open source groundwater accounting and budgeting platform
  - NGO administered
  - Voluntary use
  - Compatible with state reporting portals
Background & Considerations

- Many GSPs include groundwater trading as a tool for flexibility in matching need to groundwater allocation.
- Tribal groundwater rights are federally-reserved, not regulated by SGMA.
- How should GSAs consider tribal groundwater rights when setting up trading programs?
- What protections are needed for stakeholders including groundwater dependent ecosystems, sensitive communities, and smaller farms?
- How will groundwater trading programs be formed by GSAs?
- What is the role of the State as GSAs form groundwater trading programs?
Workplan - Step 1

July-September 2021: Frame the Issue and Establish Working Group

*staff work*

- Convene Small-Group Discussions
  - Forming a discussion group for tribes
- Establish Advisory Group
  - Would like a tribal representative
Workplan - Step 2

June-October 2021: Hold Public Discussions

- Invite Expert Panels to present at Commission Meetings
- Engage Stakeholders and the Public at Local Meetings
  - SGMA TAG?
- Conduct Public Workshops
Workplan - Step 3

Winter 2021/22: Draft Conclusions (staff work)

• Review public feedback and discuss with advisory body, state partners.
• Present preliminary conclusions to the Commission.
• Present final draft to the Commission for approval.
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