

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"

The screenshot shows the homepage of the Household Water Supply Shortage Reporting System. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the system's name and logo on the left, and links for 'Contact Us', 'Feedback', 'Help', and 'Sign In' on the right. The main content area features a large image of a hand holding a clear plastic cup under a running faucet. Overlaid on this image is a text box that reads: 'Has your household water supply gone dry? Report it here to inform state and local agencies on drought impacts'. Below this, another text box says 'Report your household water shortage' and provides instructions: 'This site is for Californians not served by a public water system who are experiencing problems with their water supply. Report your household water shortage in a few easy steps.' At the bottom of this text box are two buttons: 'Submit Report' and 'Enviar Reporte'. The footer of the page has a dark blue background with the title 'Tracking Dry Wells in CA' and 'Updated July 20, 2021'. It contains three data boxes: 'Last 30 days' (180 total, 143% increase), 'Year to date' (298 total, 251% increase), and 'Total since reporting began' (3,083 total).

Household Water Supply Shortage Reporting System

Contact Us Feedback Help Sign In

Has your household water supply gone dry?
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Report your household water shortage
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Submit Report Enviar Reporte

Tracking Dry Wells in CA
Updated July 20, 2021

Last 30 days 180 total 143% increase (previous 30days)	Year to date 298 total 251% increase (from last year)	Total since reporting began 3,083 total
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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.

State of Emergency Proclamation

WHEREAS climate change is intensifying the impacts of droughts on our communities, environment and economy, and California must therefore improve drought resiliency and prepare to respond to more frequent, prolonged, and intense dry periods; and

WHEREAS much of the West is experiencing severe to exceptional drought and California is in a second consecutive year of dry conditions, resulting in drought or near-drought throughout many portions of the State; and

WHEREAS these drought conditions can result in degraded water quality, fallowing of productive farmland, setbacks to vulnerable and rural communities through job losses and longer-lasting recoveries, significant impacts to tribal, commercial, and recreational salmon fisheries, constraints on access to traditional lifeways, loss of aquatic and terrestrial biodiversity, and ecosystem impacts; and

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT STATE OF CALIFORNIA

PROCLAMATION OF A STATE OF EMERGENCY

WHEREAS climate change is intensifying the impacts of droughts on our communities, environment, and economy, and California is in a second consecutive year of dry conditions, resulting in drought or near-drought throughout many portions of the State; and

WHEREAS recent warm temperatures and extremely dry soils have further depleted the expected runoff water from the Sierra-Cascade snowpack, resulting in a historic and unanticipated estimated reduction of 500,000 acre feet of water – or the equivalent of supplying water for up to one million households for one year – from reservoirs and stream systems, especially in the Klamath River, Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, and Tulare Lake Watersheds; and

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

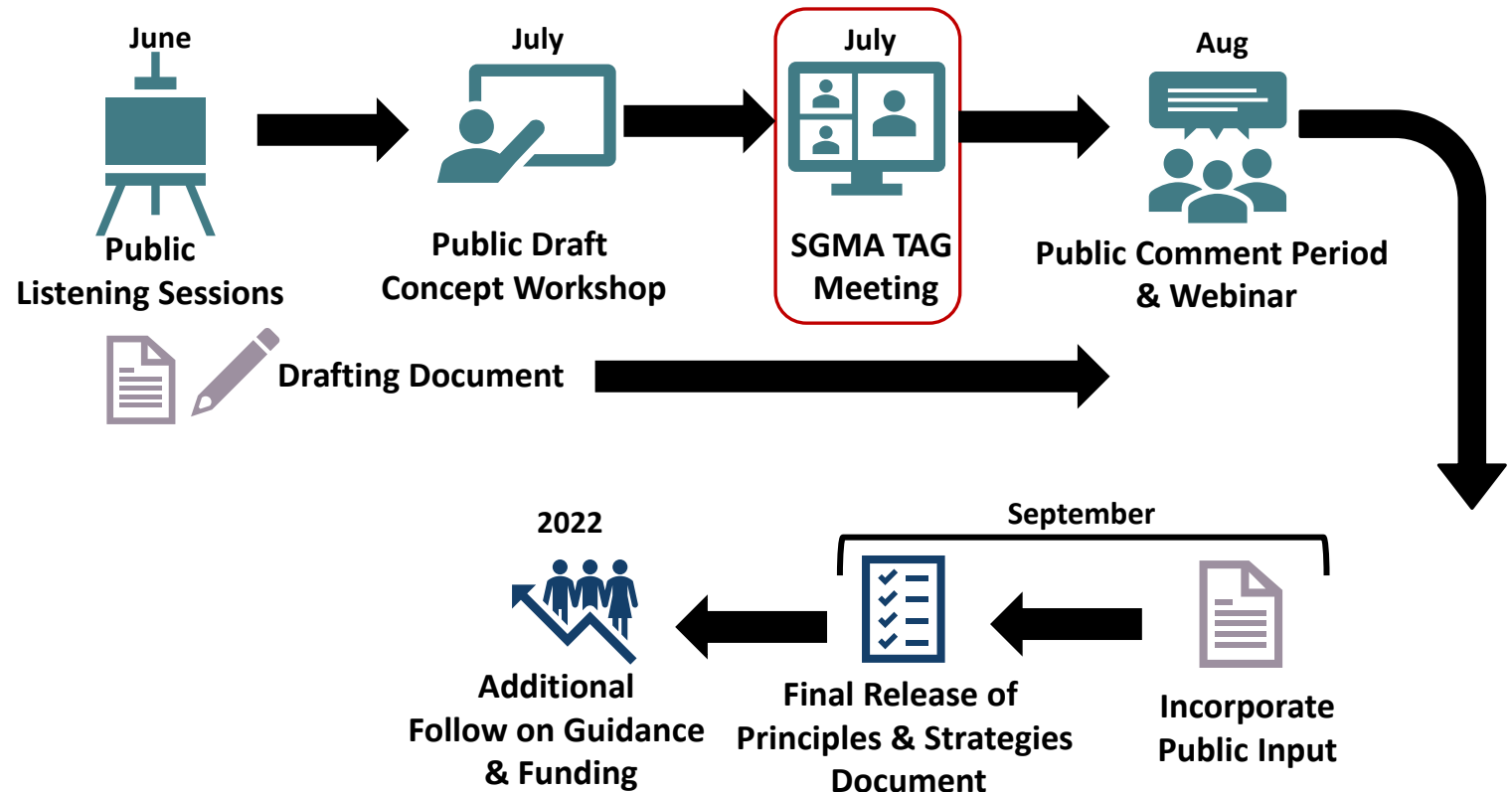
Outcomes:

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**

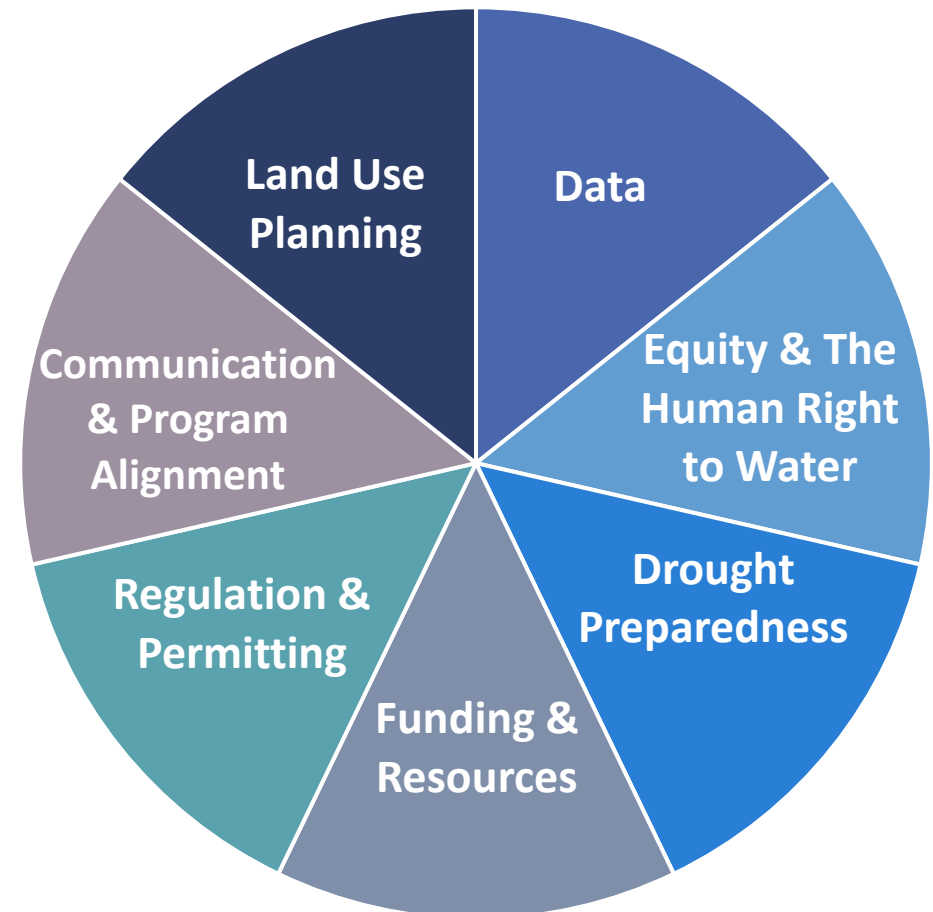
**Drought
Impacts**

**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

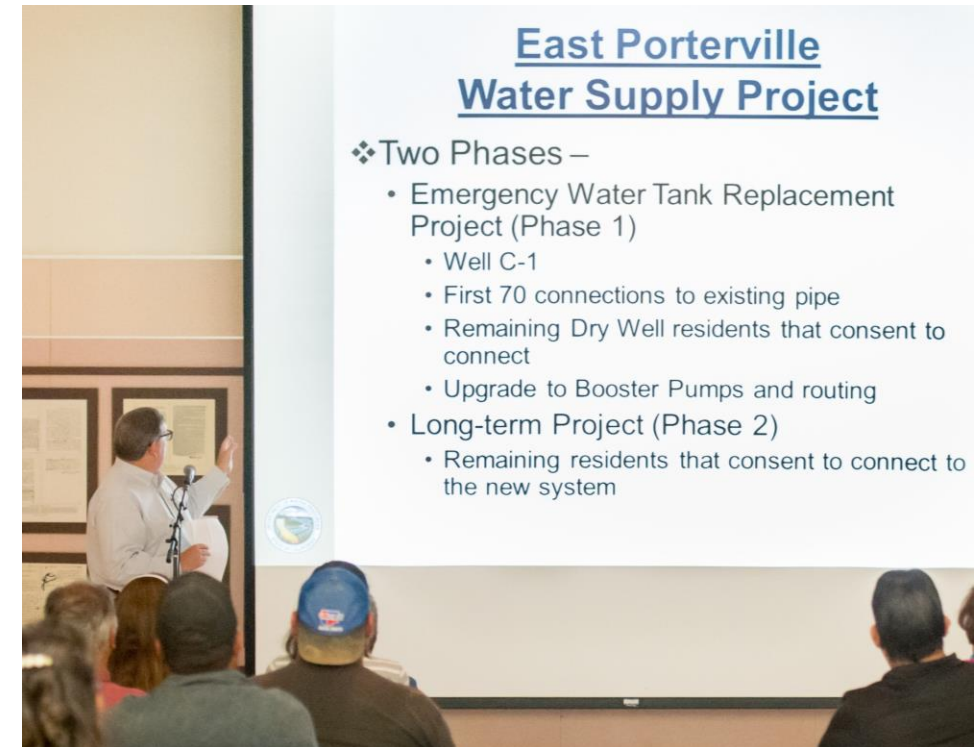


Drought Preparedness

- 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:

Approved Plans

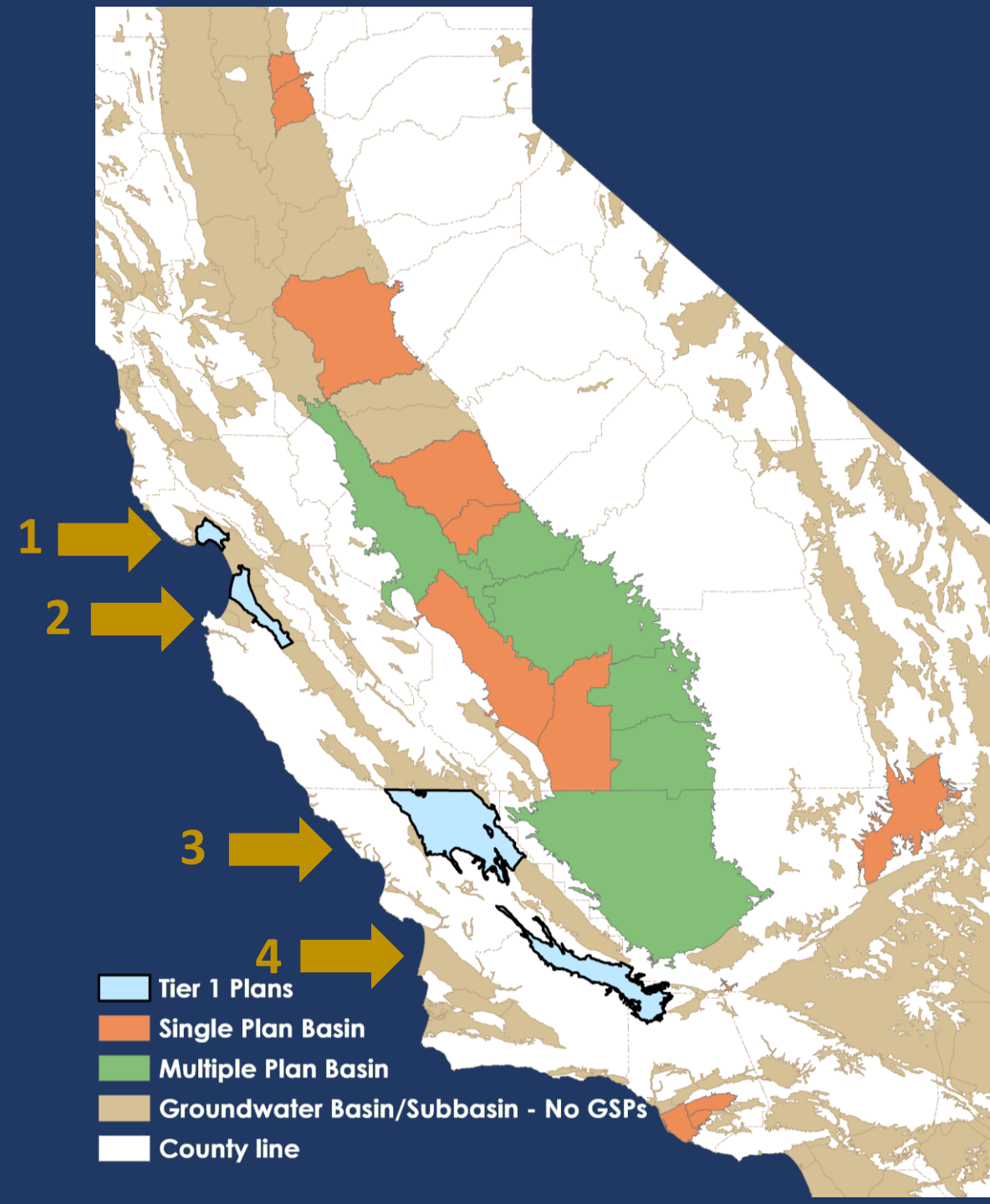
1. Santa Cruz Mid-County Basin
2. 180/400 Foot Aquifer Subbasin

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>



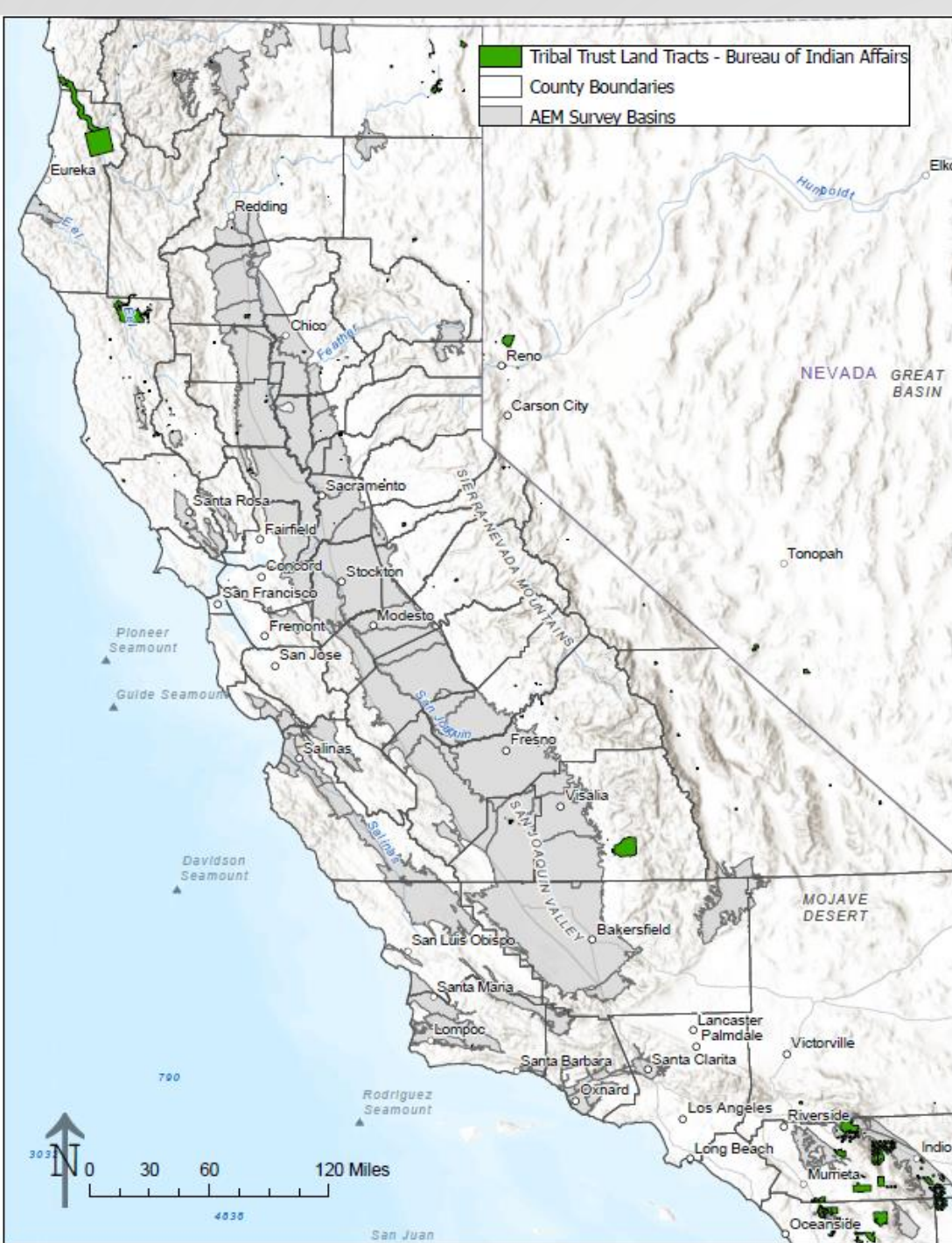
Tribal Updates and Open Discussion



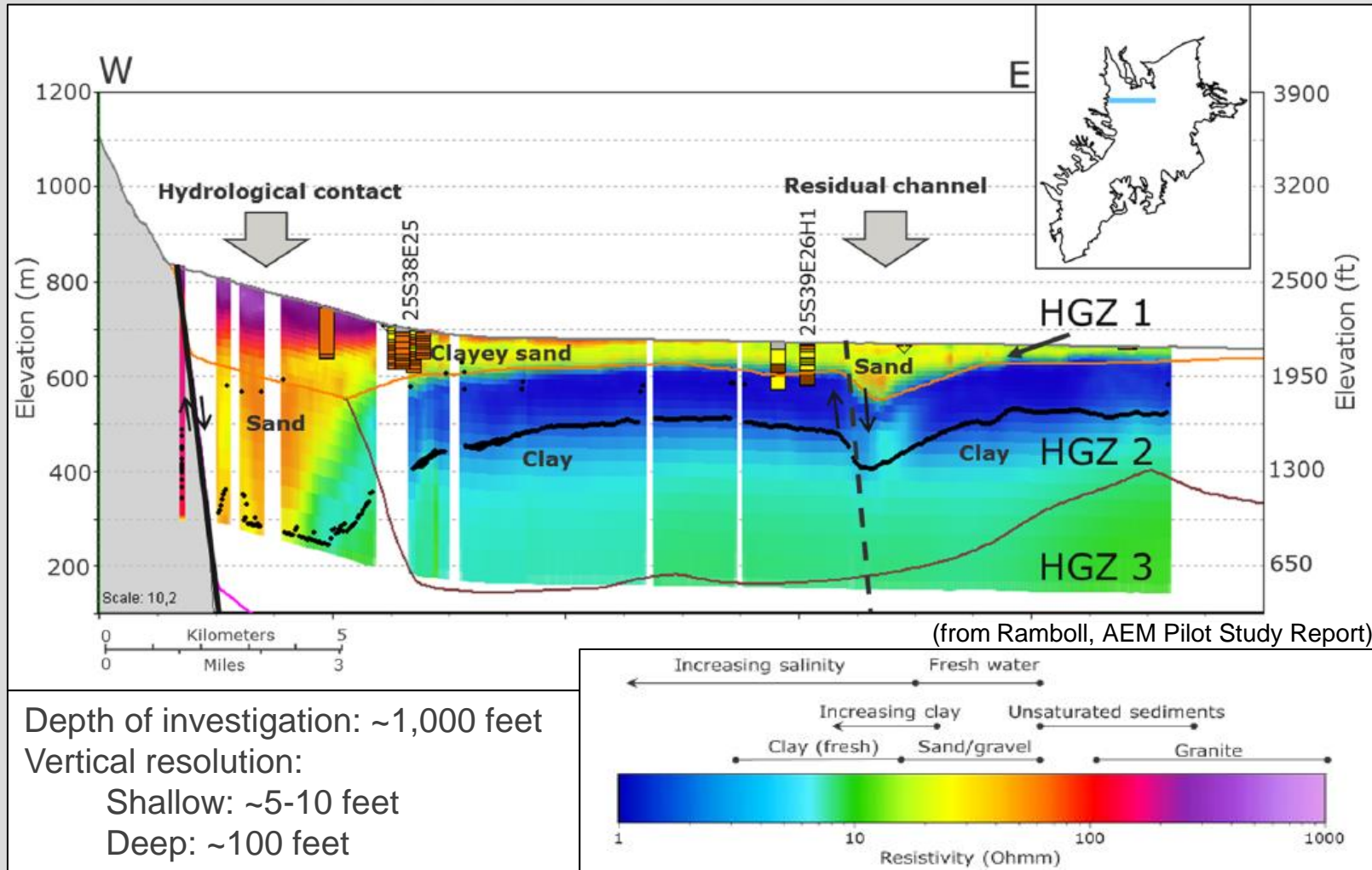
DWR's Statewide Airborne Electromagnetic (AEM) Surveys

Purpose of presenting this topic today:

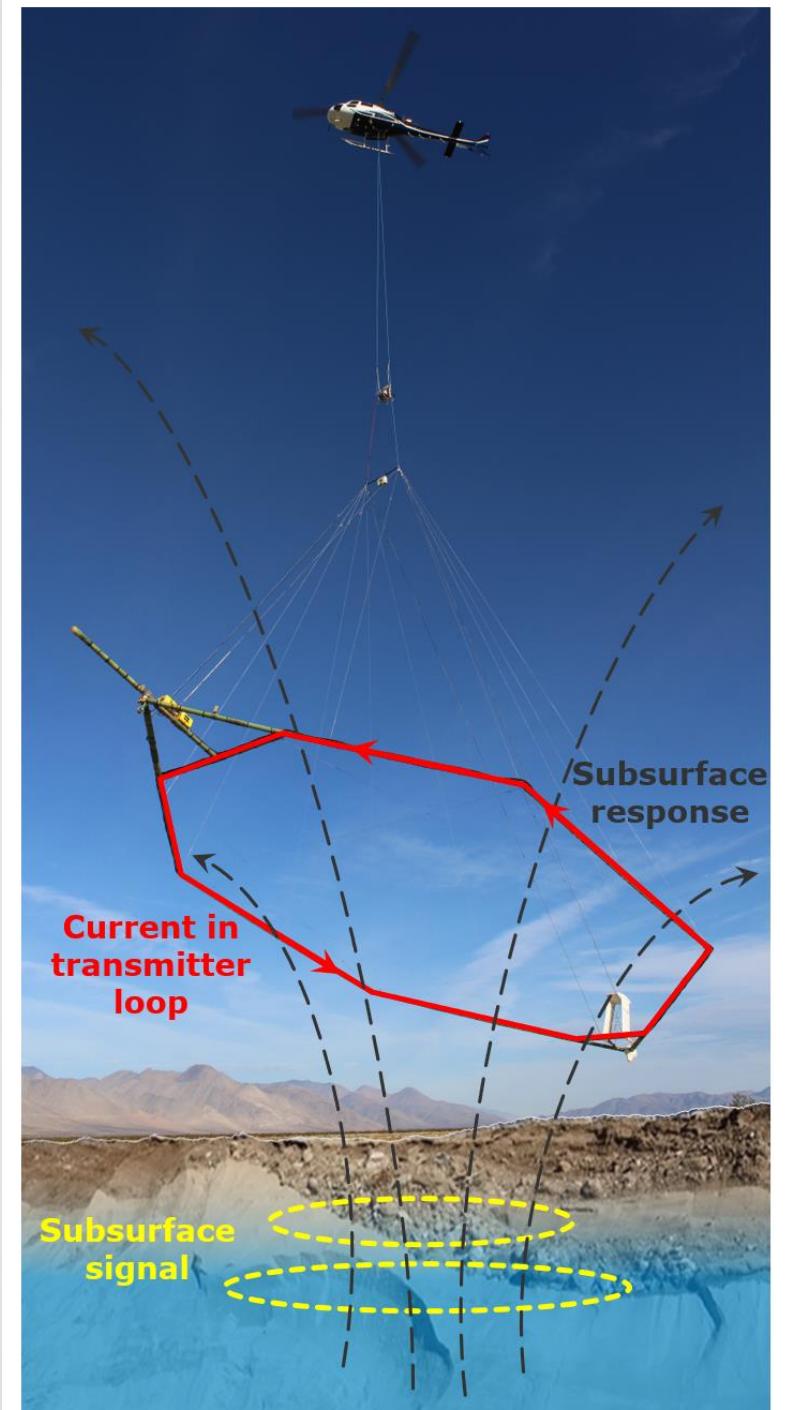
- Share information about project to keep Tribes informed about project implementation plan, data use, and continued outreach effort.
- AEM data collected throughout California in areas with which may contain federally and possibly non-federally recognized Tribal lands.



The AEM method

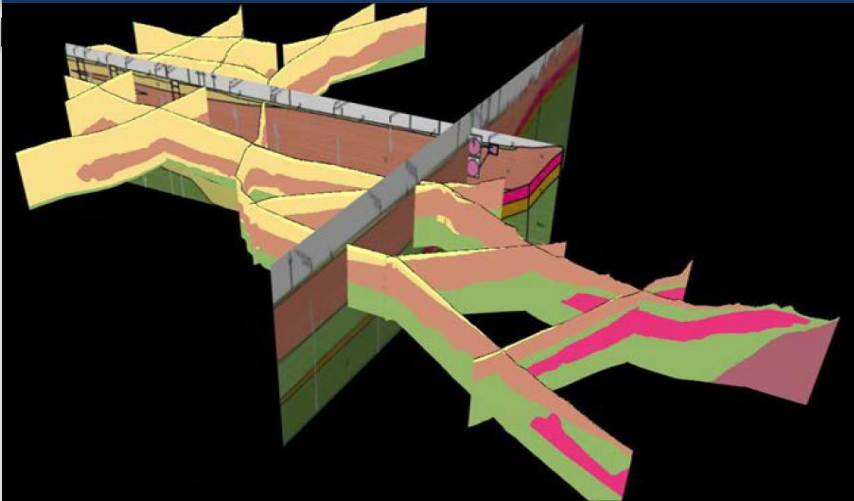


Depth of investigation: ~1,000 feet
Vertical resolution:
Shallow: ~5-10 feet
Deep: ~100 feet



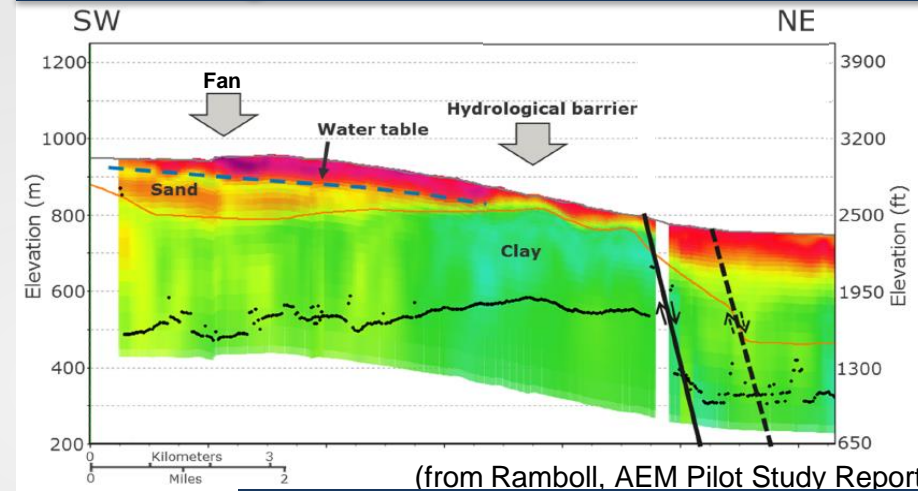
How can AEM data be used?

Groundwater or hydrogeologic conceptual model



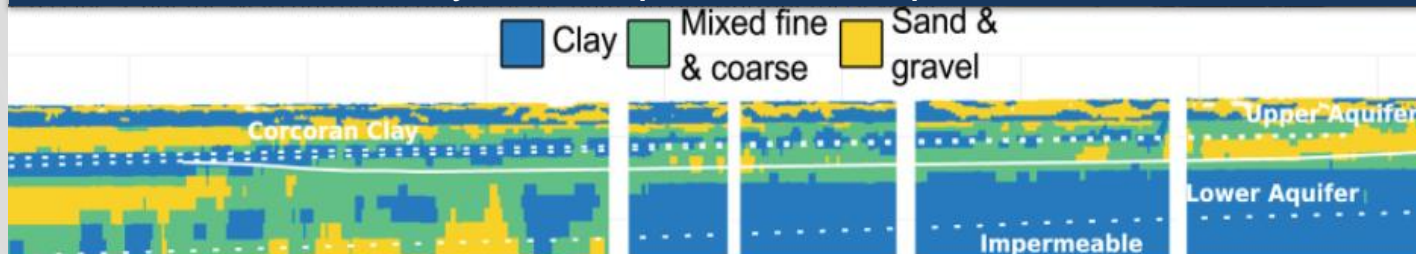
(from Aqua Geo Frameworks, AEM Pilot Study Report)

Recharge areas or additional studies



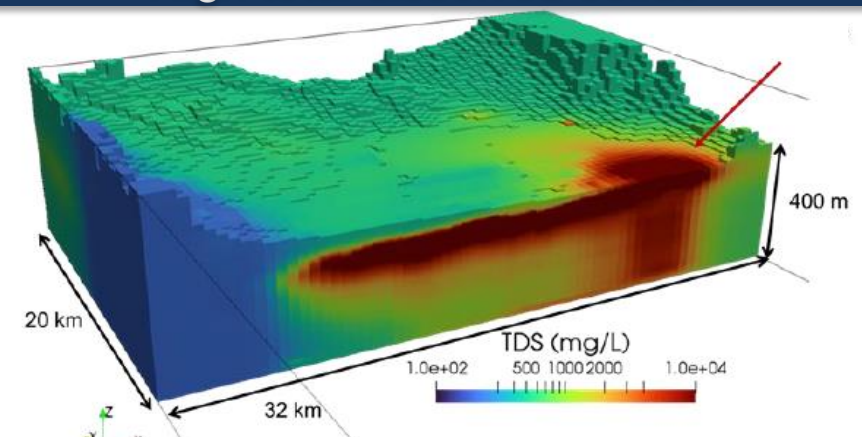
(from Ramboll, AEM Pilot Study Report)

Clays susceptible to compaction



(from Knight et al., 2018)

High total dissolved solids



(from Stanford University, AEM Pilot Study Report)

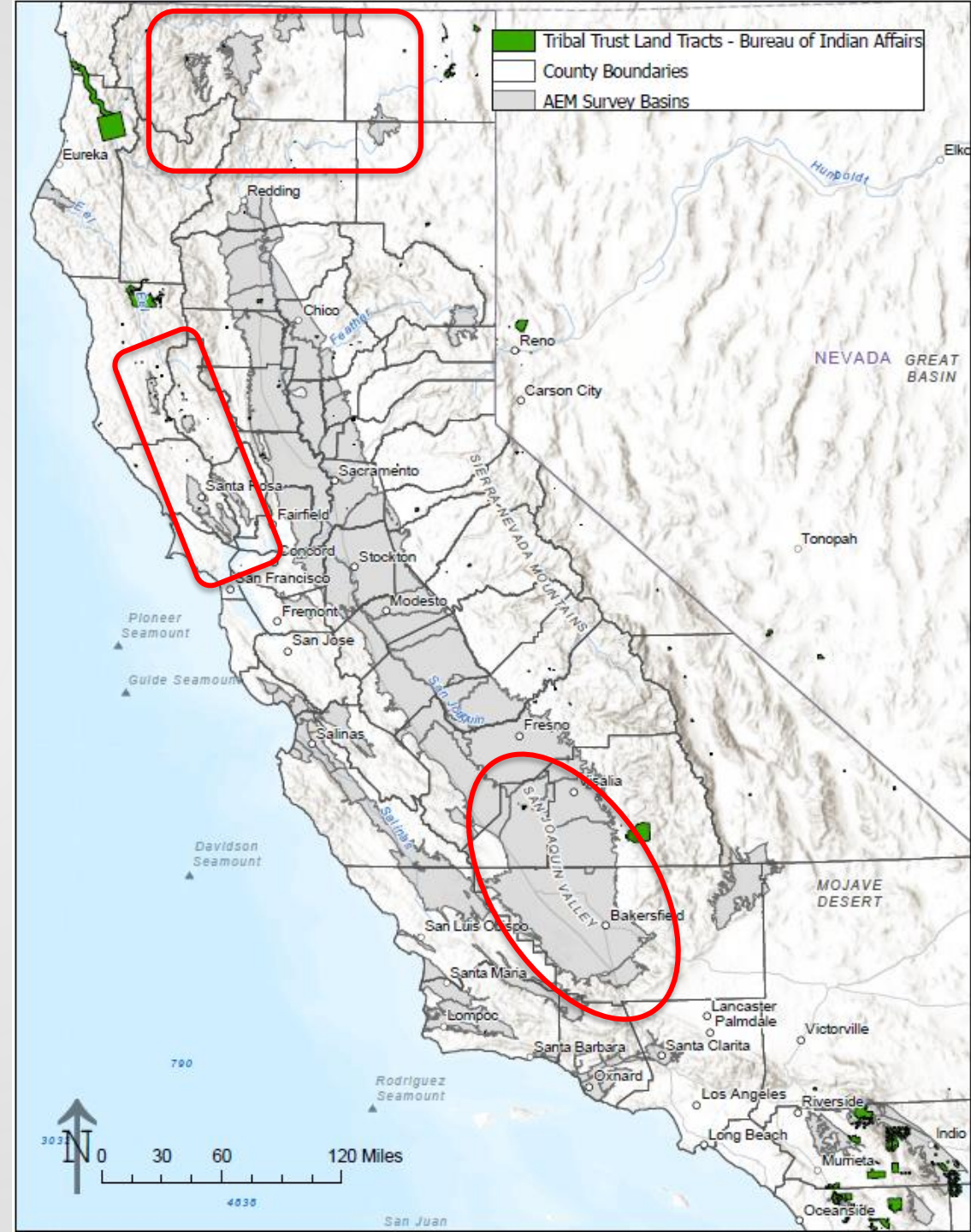


Project Implementation

- 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.

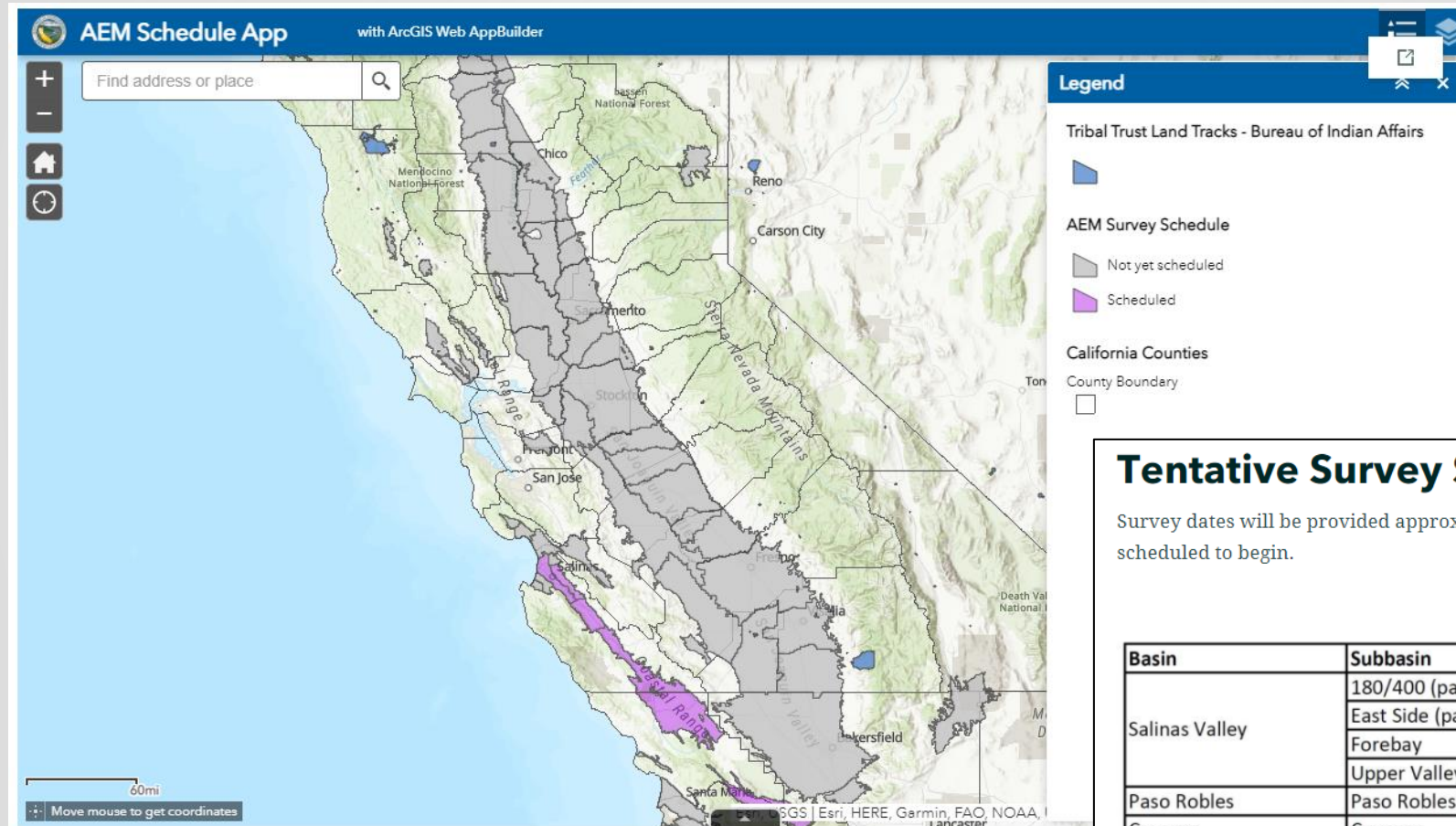
Fall Survey Areas

- 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](#)).



Tentative Survey Schedule

Survey dates will be provided approximately one month before surveys are tentatively scheduled to begin.

Basin	Subbasin	Tentative survey dates
Salinas Valley	180/400 (partial)	Mid-July, 2021
	East Side (partial)	
	Forebay	
	Upper Valley	
Paso Robles	Paso Robles	August , 2021
Cuyama	Cuyama	

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

All survey dates are tentative and subject to weather and fire conditions. Subbasins denoted as "partial" will be partially surveyed during the tentative survey schedule date; the remainder of the subbasin will be surveyed at a later time.



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**

The background of the slide is a photograph of a calm body of water, possibly a reservoir or a large pond. In the distance, there is a green island or peninsula. The sky is clear and blue. In the foreground, a metal water level marker with a white and black striped pattern and numbers is visible. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

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

Action 3.6

Commission's role

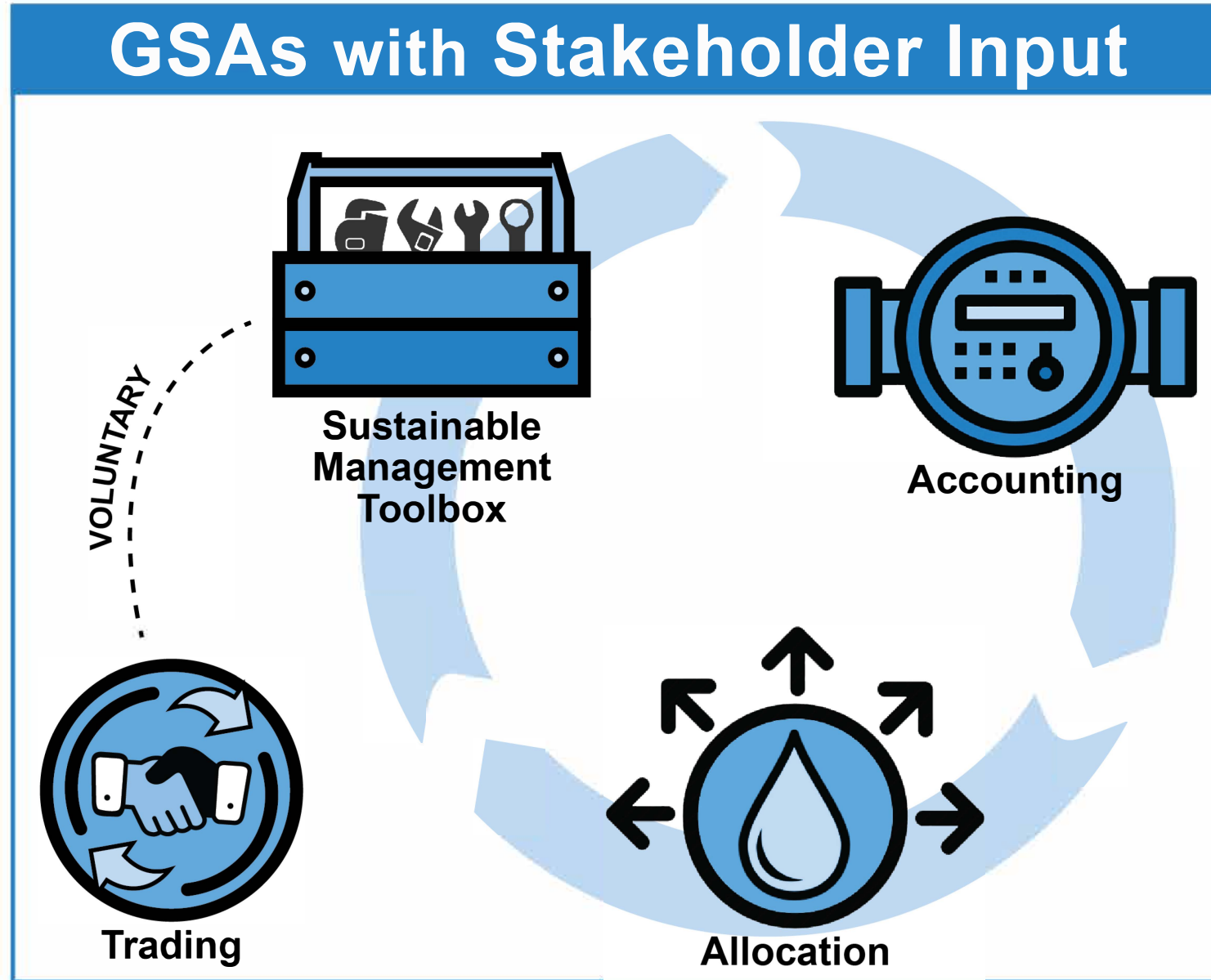
- Hold public conversations.
- Focus on safeguards for groundwater trading.
- Consider accounting and allocations as it relates to trading.
- Consider role of the state in groundwater trading.
- Develop white paper with guidance for implementing agencies to advance Action 3.6.



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.



Contacts

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