Opportunities for Participation

Domestic well users have the opportunity to participate in the establishment of a GSA and development of the GSA’s sustainability plan.

Before deciding to become a GSA, the local agency must hold a public hearing. Prior to developing a sustainability plan, the GSA must make available a written statement that describes the manner in which interested parties may participate in the development and implementation of the sustainability plan.

GSAs are required to encourage active participation by a diverse range of stakeholders in the groundwater basin; maintain lists of interested parties; and engage those parties in the development and implementation of the sustainability plan. Adoption or amendment of a sustainability plan may only occur after a public hearing.

Additional Information

Information on GSA development, including guidelines, GSA notifications, and the Department of Water Resources’ role in GSA formation is available online at www.water.ca.gov/groundwater/sgm/gsa.cfm

The mapping features, notifications, and tables available on this website will be helpful in determining whether a GSA has formed in your area. You can use the information to contact your local GSA and ensure that you are listed as an interested party.

In areas where no GSA has submitted a formation notification, you may wish to contact local public agencies with existing land or water use authorities to see if they are working towards forming a GSA.

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Each GSA will determine the management policies that will apply to domestic well users under a groundwater sustainability plan. One GSA may choose to exempt domestic well users from management altogether, while another GSA may need to incorporate domestic well users into basin management in order to address negative effects caused by groundwater extractions in the basin.

Powers and Authorities
SGMA describes GSA powers and authorities, which include the authority to charge fees, conduct investigations, register wells, require reporting, and take other actions to sustainably manage the basin.

Metering
SGMA does not authorize GSAs to require domestic well users to meter their wells.

Domestic Well User Interests
GSAs must consider the interests of domestic well users. SGMA requires each GSA to provide an explanation of how it will consider the interests of domestic well users as part of the GSA notification process that must be submitted to the Department of Water Resources.

Participating in a GSA
GSAs are also required to establish a list of parties interested in receiving notices on plan preparation, meeting announcements, draft plans, and other related activities. You can stay involved with your local GSA by making a request to the GSA, in writing, to be placed on the “interested persons list.”

Information on GSA development and a GSA notification map are available at www.water.ca.gov/groundwater/sgm/gsa_map.cfm.