

Sustainable Groundwater Management Implementation

Presented by your DWR Basin Point of Contacts

Amanda Peisch-Derby, RC
Senior Water Resources Engineer
South Central Region Office
Fresno, CA

Tom Berg, POC
Senior Engineering Geologist
South Central Region Office
Fresno, CA



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER
MANAGEMENT OFFICE

Demonstrate Progress to DWR

The Department is evaluating implementation of a Plan and achievement of the sustainability goal through:

- Annual Reports
- Periodic Updates to Groundwater Sustainability Plans
- Projects and Management Actions
- Inter-basin Coordination

Drought Impacts

Per CA Water Code § 10721 (X)(1), Overdraft during a period of drought is not sufficient to establish a chronic lowering of groundwater levels if:

- extractions and groundwater recharge are managed as necessary to ensure that reductions in groundwater levels or
- storage during a period of drought are offset by increases in groundwater levels or storage during other periods

Significant and unreasonable effects are always considered even during drought for:

- Seawater Intrusion
- Degraded Water Quality
- Land Subsidence
- Depletions of Interconnected Surface Water

Data Gaps

Periodic Updates to Groundwater Sustainability Plans (§ 356.4) should show progress towards filling the data gaps through:

- An assessment of monitoring network function and the actions necessary to improve the monitoring network (§354.38)
- If the Agency identifies data gaps, the Plan shall describe a program for the acquisition of additional data sources, including an estimate of the timing of that acquisition, and for incorporation of newly obtained information into the Plan
- The Plan shall prioritize the installation of new data collection facilities and analysis of new data based on the needs of the basin

Each Agency shall describe steps that will be taken to fill data gaps before the next five-year assessment. The Department will consider if the Agency is addressing data gaps and reducing the levels of uncertainty identified within the Plan (§ 355.6).

Triggers for State Board Intervention – Implementation Phase (2020-2040)

- The state will evaluate GSA efforts and basin conditions during implementation.
 - Department may evaluate the implementation of a Plan at any time to determine whether the Plan is consistent with the objectives of SGMA and in substantial compliance with the GSP Regulations (§ 355.4 f)
- Any of the following can trigger the State Board intervention process for a high- or medium-priority basin.
 - lack of plans
 - lack of coordination
 - inadequate plans
 - inadequate implementation

Triggers for State Board Intervention

Per CA Water Code §10735.2, for all high and medium priority basins:

- After January 31, 2022, both of the following have occurred:
 - The Department, in consultation with the Board, determines that a groundwater sustainability plan is inadequate or that the groundwater sustainability plan is not being implemented in a manner that will likely achieve the sustainability goal.
 - The Board determines that the basin is in a condition of long-term overdraft.
- After January 2025, all above listed plus:
 - that the basin is in a condition where groundwater extractions result in significant depletions of interconnected surface waters

Summary

- Agency must demonstrate progress towards implementation and fill data gaps to reduce the uncertainty in the Plans
- Agency needs to understand and report the impacts of groundwater management, or lack of, on beneficial uses and users to the State
- If local progress is not being met, the State can intervene at any time

QUESTIONS