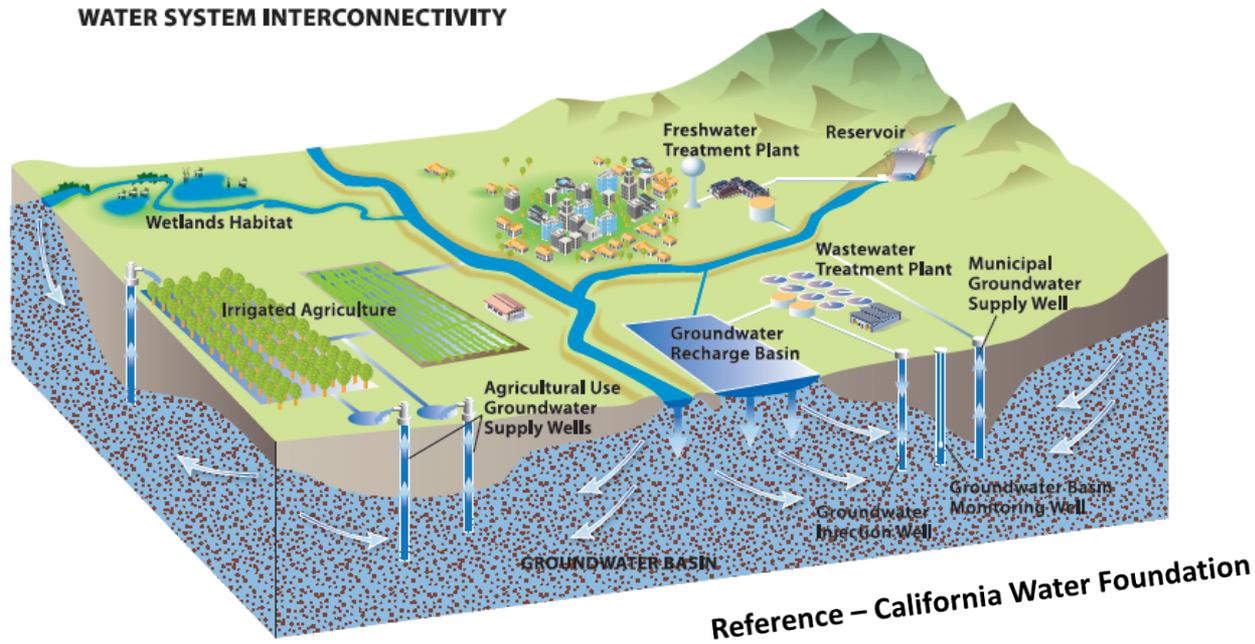


Sustainable Groundwater Management Act in Sonoma County



Briefing & Recommendations for Implementation

Presented to Sonoma County Board of Supervisors/SCWA Board of Directors

By Sonoma County/SCWA SGMA Workgroup

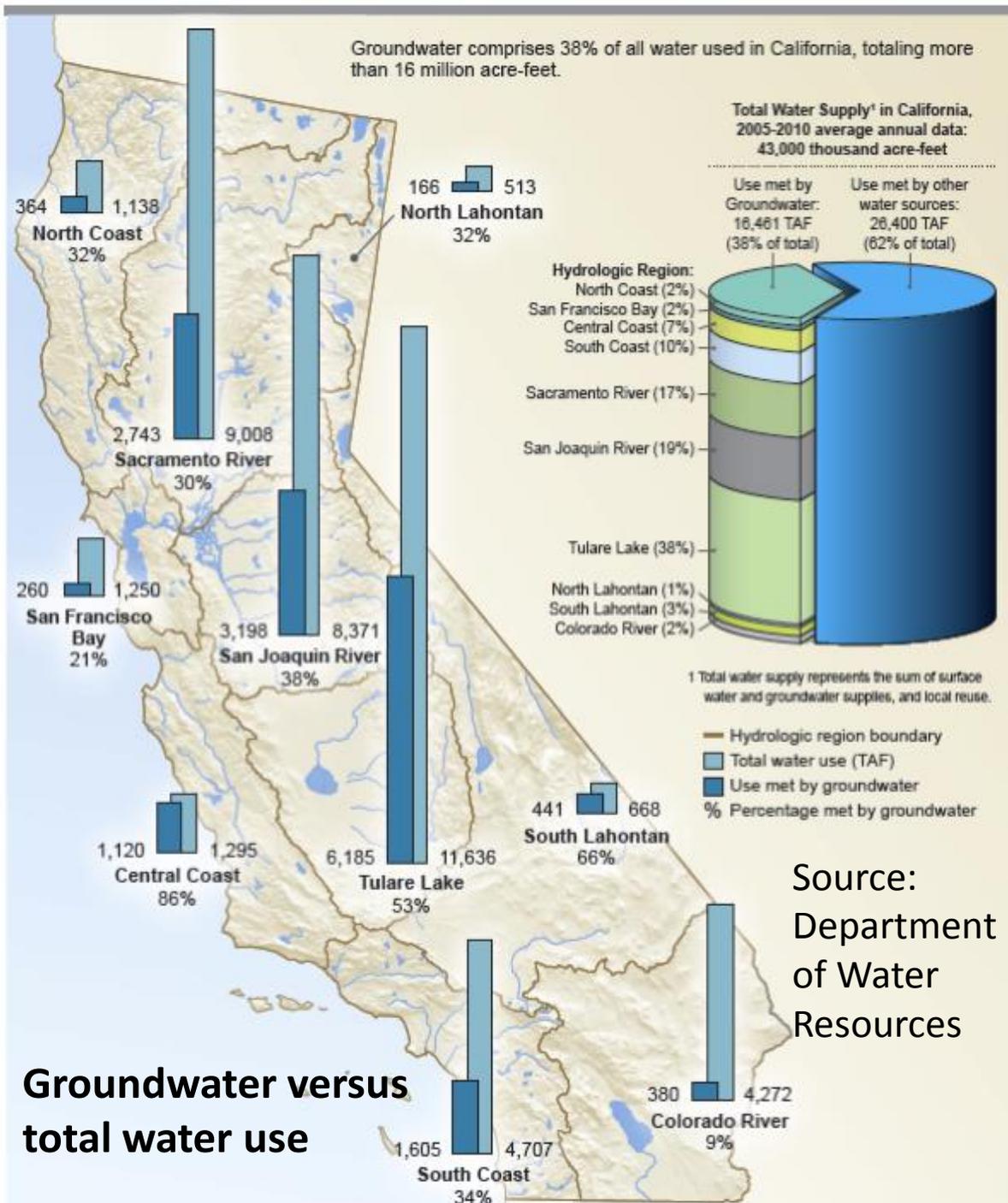
March 17, 2015

Groundwater Is Essential to California

38% of state's average annual water supply

Up to 60% of water supply in dry years

Drinking water for more than 80% of Californians



Source: Department of Water Resources

Groundwater versus total water use

Presentation Overview

- **Existing groundwater management programs**
- **The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA)**
- **Implications of SGMA implementation in Sonoma County**
- **SGMA Workgroup activities**
- **Recommended Board Actions**

Groundwater Plays Important Role in Building Resiliency

Alexander Valley Study completed 2006

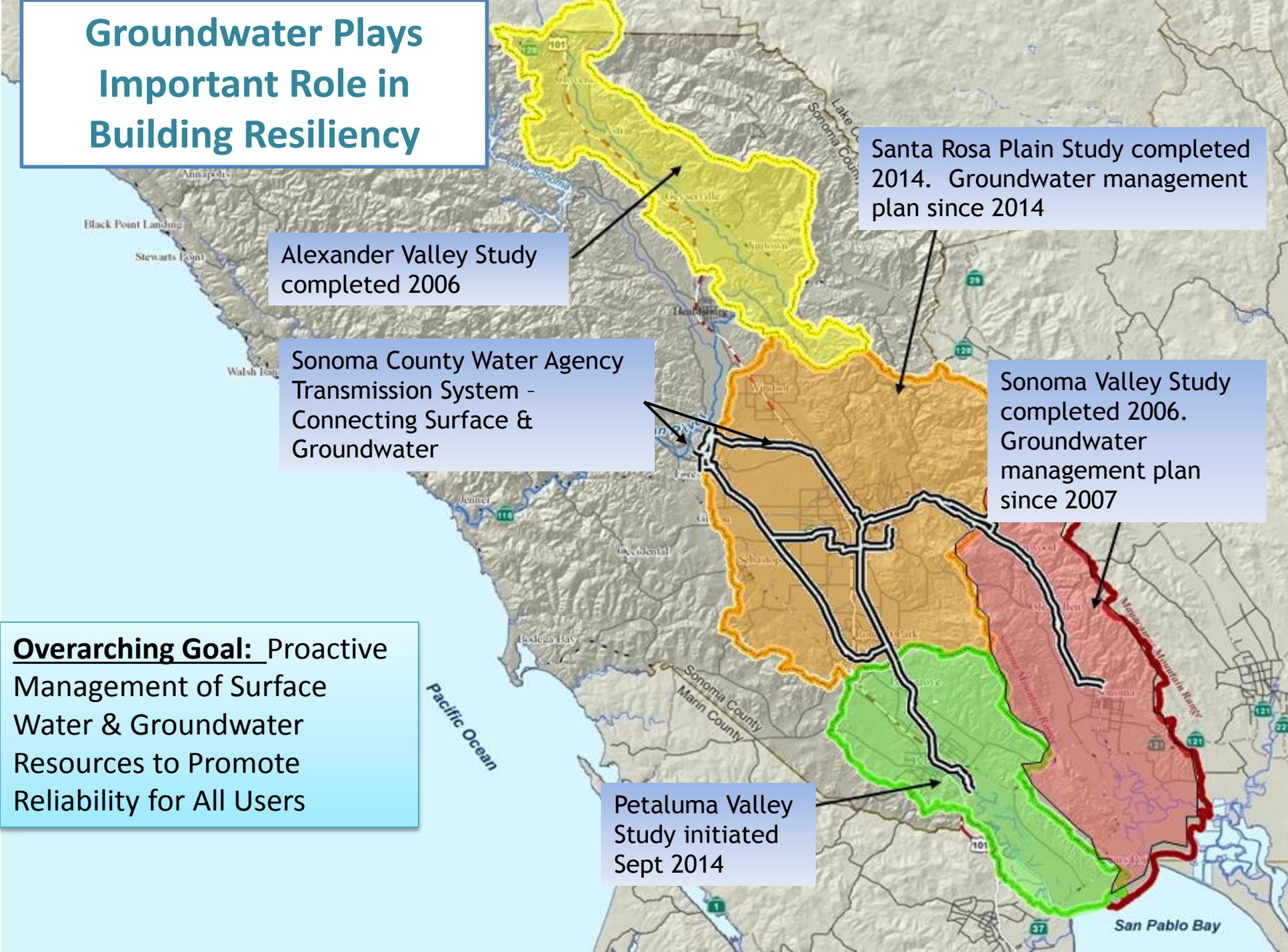
Sonoma County Water Agency Transmission System - Connecting Surface & Groundwater

Santa Rosa Plain Study completed 2014. Groundwater management plan since 2014

Sonoma Valley Study completed 2006. Groundwater management plan since 2007

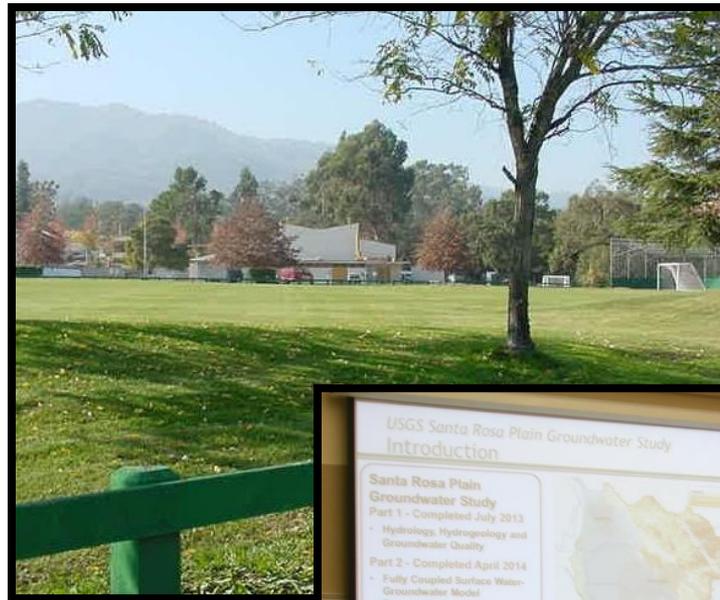
Petaluma Valley Study initiated Sept 2014

Overarching Goal: Proactive Management of Surface Water & Groundwater Resources to Promote Reliability for All Users



Existing Sonoma Valley & Santa Rosa Plain Groundwater Management Plans are Non-Regulatory

- Voluntary & collaborative
- Focus on recharge, monitoring, conservation & groundwater protection
- Qualitative Basin Management Objectives
- Basins eligible for state funding
- Strong foundation for SGMA



Groundwater Management Under SGMA

Many Things Will Change

- No longer voluntary
- Measurable objectives that will achieve sustainability
- New authorities granted to Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs)
- State review of local Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs)
- State intervention now possible

SGMA in Sonoma County: Where?

Three medium priority basins:

- Sonoma Valley
- Petaluma Valley
- Santa Rosa

Implementation is elective but encouraged in low/very low priority Bulletin 118 basins



SGMA Steps to Groundwater Sustainability

Step one

Form
Groundwater
Sustainability
Agency

June 30, 2017

Step two

Develop
Groundwater
Sustainability
Plan

January 31, 2022
(for medium
priority basins)

Step three

Achieve
Sustainability
20 years after
adoption of
plan*

* DWR may grant up to two, five-year extensions on implementation upon showing of good cause and progress

Groundwater Sustainability Agencies: Who?

- Local agency or combination of local agencies
- “Local agency” is any public agency that does one of the following:
 - Supplies water
 - Manages water
 - Controls land use
- Counties are the default GSA in “unmanaged” areas
- Can be more than one GSA in basin

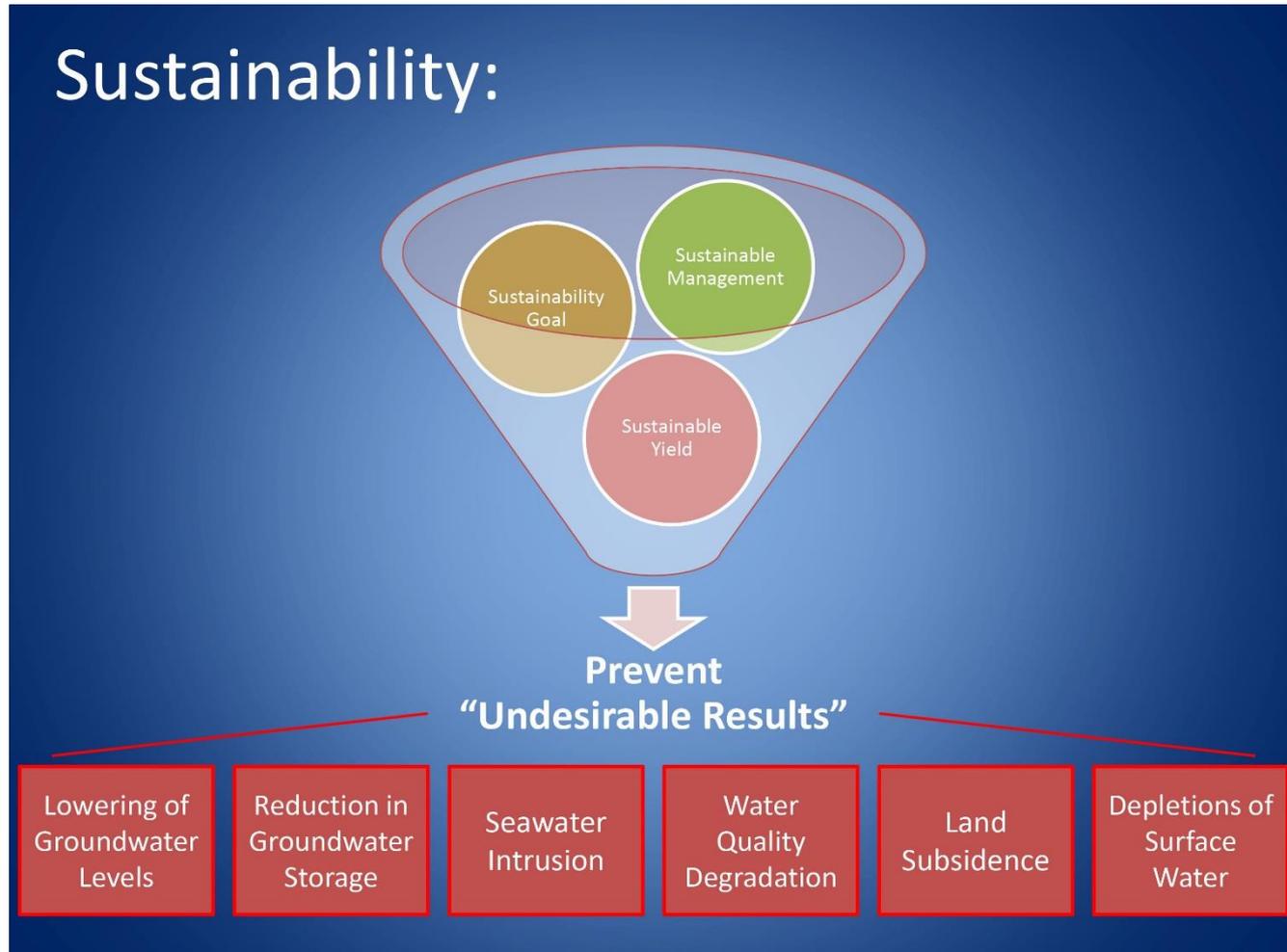
Robust Public Process

GSA must consider “all interests of all beneficial uses and users of groundwater” including:

- Agriculture
- Domestic users
- Public & private water systems
- Tribes
- Environmental users
- Disadvantaged communities
- Others



What is Sustainable Groundwater Management?



Graphic: California Department of Water Resources

New Groundwater Sustainability Plans

Plan Requirements:

- 50-year planning horizon
- 20 years to reach sustainability
- Physical description of basin
- Measurable objectives
- Interim milestones
- Monitoring & management
- Plan exempt from CEQA

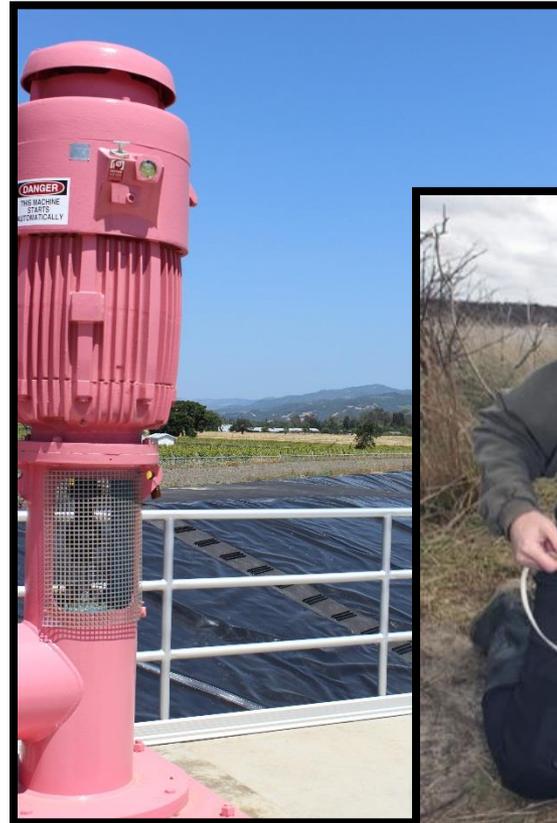


New Management Authorities Under SGMA

Groundwater Sustainability Agencies have authority to:

- Conduct studies
- Register & monitor wells
- Set well spacing requirements
- Require extraction reporting
- Regulate extractions
- Implement capital projects
- Assess fees to cover costs

Some exemptions for smaller private well owners



New Management Responsibilities Under SGMA



GSA's are responsible for:

- Maintaining basin groundwater sustainability
- Conducting public hearings regarding sustainability plan adoption or amendment
- Submittal of annual reports
- Periodic review of sustainability plan

What About Water Rights?

*“It is the intent of the Legislature to preserve the security of water rights in the state **to the greatest extent possible consistent with the sustainable management of groundwater.**”*
[Water Code §10720.1]



Discussing Water Rights, A Western Pastime

SGMA does not alter existing groundwater or surface water rights -- but like land use, water use can be regulated

The Land Use Planning Connection

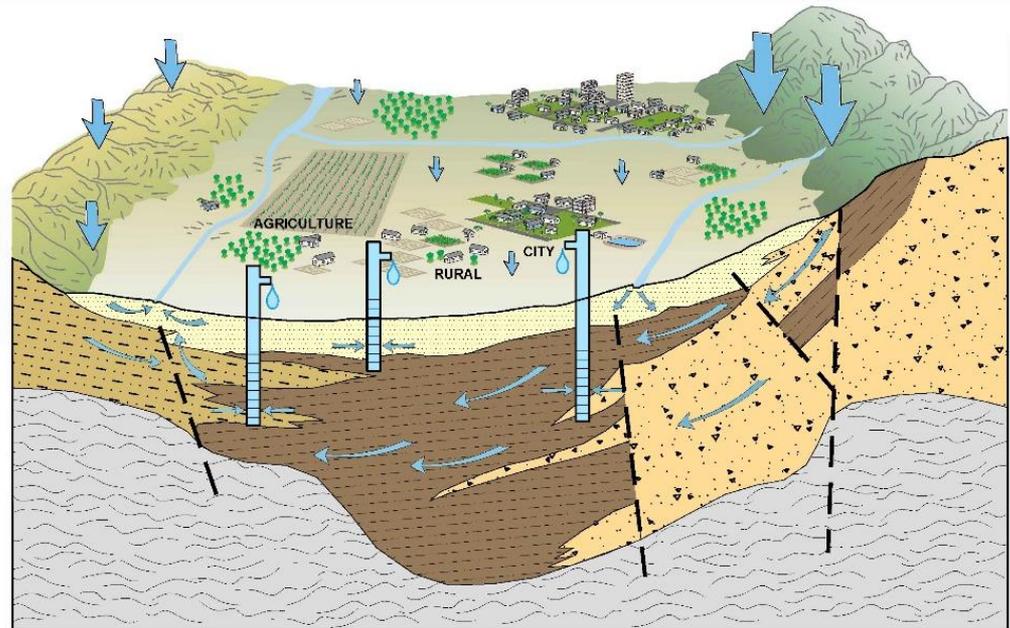
Statutory Requirements

GSA's MUST:	LAND-USE AGENCIES DIRECTED TO:	GSA's CANNOT:
<p>Notify cities, county of hearings to adopt Groundwater Sustainability Plan</p> <p>Take into account local general plan assumptions</p> <p>Be consistent with general plans if adopting any regulations on groundwater extraction that affects sustainability</p>	<p>Notify GSAs of any proposal to substantially amend a general plan</p> <p>Review & consider any adopted Groundwater Sustainability Plan when amending the general plan</p>	<p>Supersede land use authority of cities & counties</p>

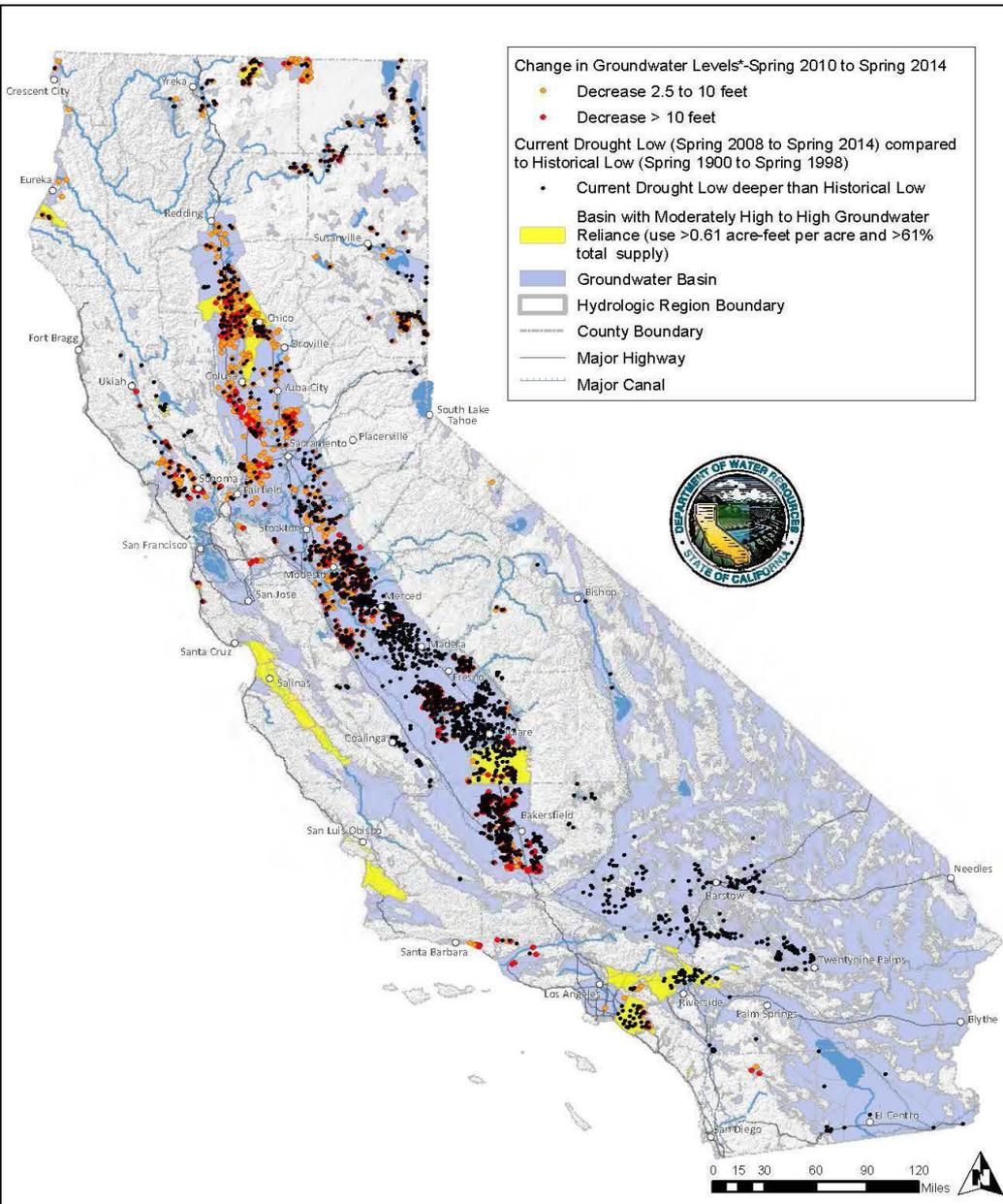
Opportunities for Integration

Land Use and Groundwater Management

- Long-range and current planning
- Well permitting
- Resource planning and permitting
- Groundwater monitoring



State Role



SGMA in Sonoma County: Moving from AB3030

- Will collaboration under existing groundwater management plans continue?
- How will interested parties including rural well owners, agriculture & environmental users be represented?
- Will local agencies work together?
- How will tension between resource protection, competing water demands & water rights be resolved?
- Watershed or basin boundaries for GSPs?

Existing Sonoma Valley & Santa Rosa Plain plans advance those regions ability to comply with SGMA, obtain grant funding and retain local management

SGMA in Sonoma County: Workgroup Activities To Date

- Stakeholder outreach to provide information & seek input
- Draft general principles for developing GSA governance options
- Participate in statewide SGMA activities
 - Cleanup legislation & new legislative initiatives
 - Conferences & workshops
 - Funding
 - Participate in DWR, CSAC, & ACWA advisory panels
- Evaluate implications of SGMA to Sonoma County
 - Recommend initial steps to develop GSA governance options

SGMA Workgroup Outreach

Resources can be found at:

www.sonomacountywater.org/sgma

Workgroup has met
– *and will continue to meet* – with many stakeholder groups to inform and seek input



SGMA in Sonoma County: Possible GSA Governance Options

Disaggregated: Separate basin-specific GSAs

- Most direct, simplest form of representation
- Possible funding competition between basins
- Less efficient administration & regional issues

Centralized: One county-wide GSA

- Coordinate regional issues (e.g., land use, well permitting, data)
- Maximize administration efficiencies, reduce competition among basins
- Possibly cumbersome GSA board representation

Hybrid: Use county-wide resources with basin-specific management decisions

- Realize benefits of both disaggregated & centralized structures
- Multi-layered, potentially complex structure

Note: The Act allows for multiple GSAs and/or multiple GSPs for each basin, but requires “coordination agreement”

General Principles for Developing GSA Governance Options

- Local agencies work together to identify a unified and equitable approach to governance
- Reinforce local management principles by ensuring that management decisions are made at the local level
- Find opportunities for sharing resources and management expertise across basins to avoid redundancy and reduce management costs.
- Build upon successful water management efforts
- Involve community stakeholders
- Provide a robust and transparent outreach program for well owners and the general public

Recommended Initial Steps for Developing GSA Governance

- Retain facilitator for stakeholder assessment
- Based on assessment, facilitator recommends process for development of GSA governance options and stakeholder outreach
- Workgroup returns to BOS/BOD for consideration of governance process
- Initiate governance development process upon approval by local agency governing bodies



Recommended Actions For Board Consideration

- Authorize Chair to execute professional services agreement not to exceed \$40,000 for Consensus Building Institute, Inc. to conduct stakeholder assessment & develop process for GSA formation
- Authorize Chair to execute amended agreement with Pete Parkinson for groundwater management planning assistance
- Return to Board to present results of stakeholder assessment and seek direction for next steps regarding GSA formation, including estimates of resources required to form GSAs
- Continue outreach to stakeholders to provide information regarding SGMA & seek input regarding implementation