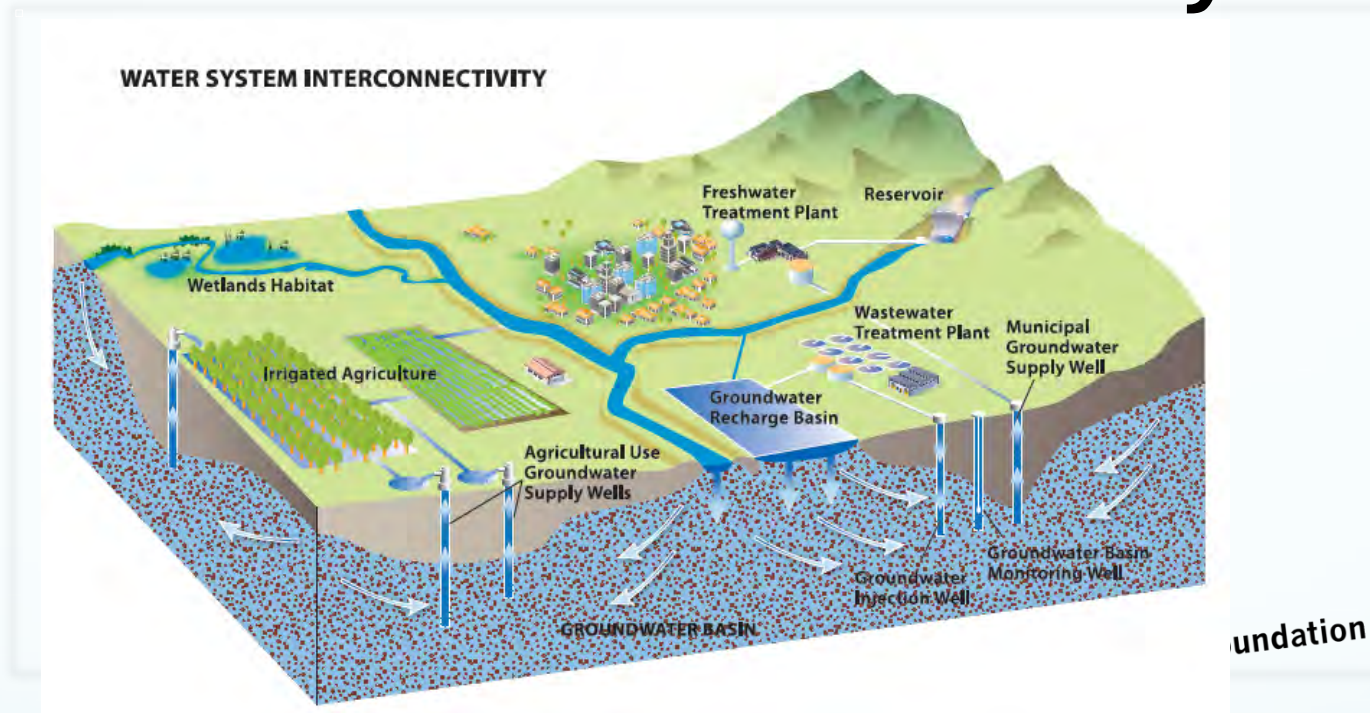


Sustainable Groundwater Management in Eastern Kern County



GSA-Eligible Agencies Meeting
Indian Wells Valley Water District
November 19, 2015

Discussion Overview

- **Sustainable Groundwater Management Act Requirements**
 - Three Steps
 - Outreach and Input
- **IWV Groundwater Sustainability Agency Considerations**
 - Proposed Governance Skeleton Structure
 - Initial Discussions
 - Board Representation
 - Voting
 - Funding and Fees
- **Next Steps**

Sustainable Groundwater Management Act Requirements

State of California

SGMA Steps to Groundwater Sustainability

Step one

Form
Groundwater
Sustainability
Agency

June 30, 2017

Step two

Develop
Groundwater
Sustainability
Plan

January 31, 2020

Step three

Achieve
Sustainability
20 years after
adoption of
plan*

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

Step One: Form Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA)

- 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

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

*Required to Develop Groundwater Sustainability Plan by
January 31, 2020*

Domestic Wells and SGMA

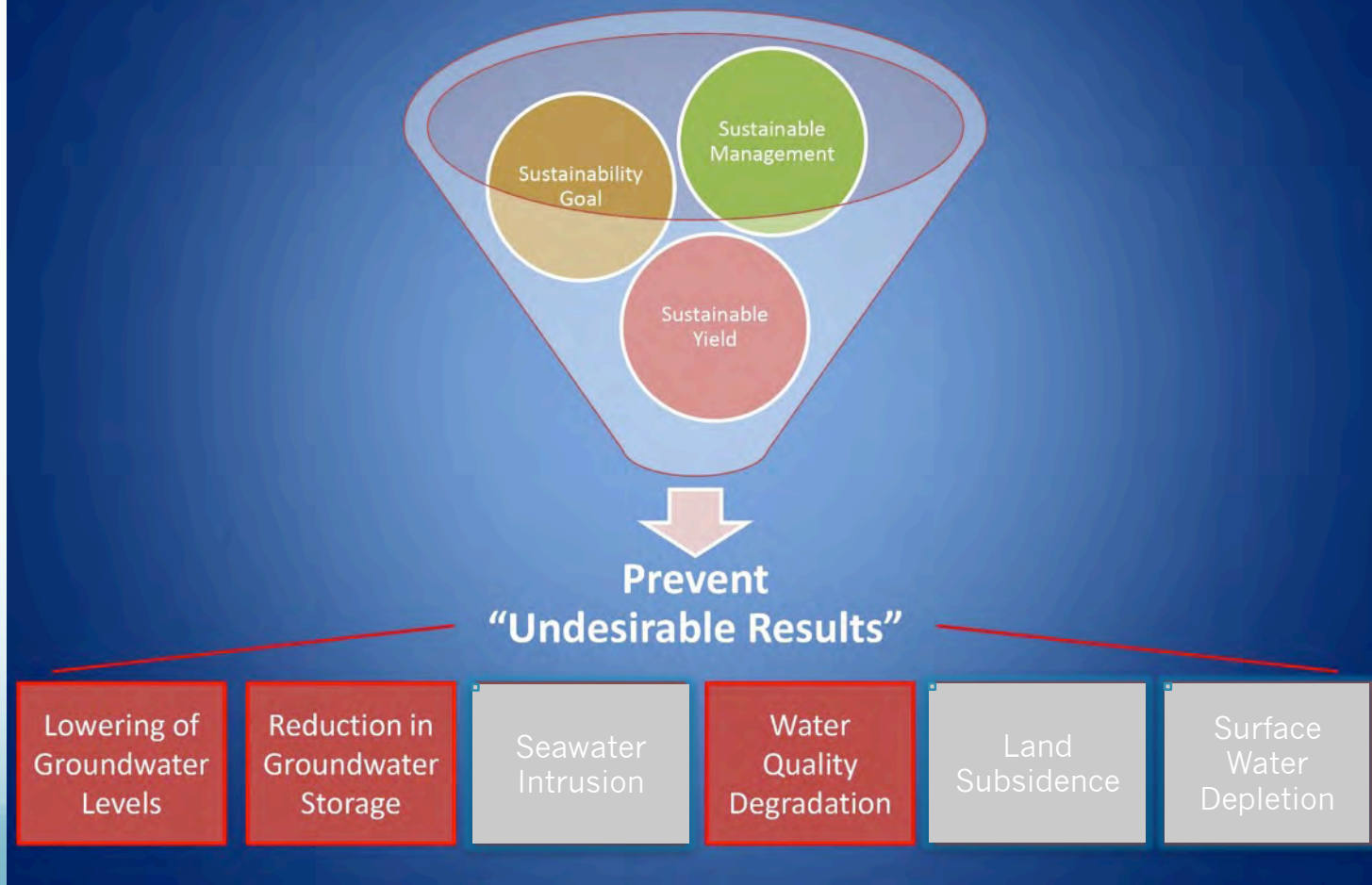
- Referred to as “de minimis” users in SGMA
 - Use 2 acre-feet per year or less for domestic purposes
- De minimis users are subject to SGMA, depending on local needs
 - GSAs will decide how de minimis users are incorporated
 - GSAs can decide to exclude or include
 - GSAs can decide on fees
 - GSAs *cannot* require metering
 - May be subject to reporting and fees to state if intervention occurs
- Domestic wells can also be regulated by authorities (counties, water districts, etc.) outside the scope of SGMA

Step 2: Develop Groundwater Sustainability Plan

- Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) must develop a sustainability plan by 2020
- California Department of Water Resources
 - Issues requirements for those plans in 2016
 - Draft regulations will be available beginning 2016
 - Reviews GSPs for completeness within two years of submittal to DWR

Step 3: Achieve Sustainability in 20 Years

Sustainability:



Graphic: California Department of Water Resources

Outreach and Input

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

- Agriculture users
- Domestic users
- Public & private water systems
- Local land use planning agencies
- Federal government
- Tribes
- Environmental users
- Disadvantaged communities
- *Surface water users*

Outreach Strategy

- Purpose and outcomes
- How public input will be obtained and used
- GSA formation decision-making
- Matrix of planning milestones
- Communication forums – briefings, public hearing and adoptions, public meetings/workshops
- Communication and tools – interested parties list, informational materials
 - Background/baseline materials – general fact sheet, county specific fact sheet, local basin fact sheets
 - Periodic updates – milestone fact sheets, newspaper articles & editorials, briefing packets
 - Website, Facebook, Tweets

SGMA Public Participation Requirements

GSA Formation	GSP Development
Inform Interested Parties about the Act & GSA Formation	
Public Notice*	Public Notice
Public Hearing*	Public Hearing
<i>An explanation of how the interests of ALL beneficial uses and users of groundwater will be considered in development and operation of GSA</i>	<i>Shall encourage the active involvement of diverse social, cultural, and economic elements of the population within the groundwater basin</i>

**New in SB13 – need to be ready with legal agreement to form GSA for Public Notification Meeting*

IWV Groundwater Sustainability Agency Considerations

GSA-Eligible Agencies in Indian Wells Valley

- City of Ridgecrest
- County of Kern
- County of Inyo
- County of San Bernardino
- Indian Wells Valley Water District
- Inyokern Community Services District
- Kern County Water Agency

Federal Agencies and Tribes

- Naval Air Weapons Station
- Bureau of Land Management
- Tribes

May participate voluntarily in GSA/GSP

Additional Private Interests

May join a GSA under a separate legal agreement:

- PUC regulated private water companies
- Mutual Water Companies

Note: These entities may not form a separate GSA

Possible GSA Governance Options

- **One GSA with One Plan in IWV Basin**
 - Most direct, simplest, cooperative form of representation
 - Possible funding competition between basins
 - Less efficient administration & regional issues
- **County GSA**
 - Coordinate regional issues (e.g., land use, well permitting, data)
 - Maximize administration efficiencies; reduce competition between basins
 - Possibly cumbersome GSA board representation
- **Multiple GSAs per Basin**

Note: SGMA allows for multiple GSAs and/or multiple GSPs for each basin, but requires DWR buy-in and “coordination and agreements”

Proposed Skeleton Structure Indian Wells Valley GSA & GSP

GSA-eligible agencies include:

- City of Ridgecrest
- County of Kern
- County of Inyo
- County of San Bernardino
- Indian Wells Valley Water District
- Inyokern Community Services District
- Kern County Water Agency

Indian Wells
Valley
Groundwater
Sustainability
Agency

**Advisory
Committee(s)**

**Technical
Committee(s)**

Other GSA interests include:

Federal/Sovereign

- Naval Air Weapons Station
- Bureau of Land Management
- Tribes

Private

- PUC-Regulated private water companies
- Mutual Water Companies

Draft Principles for Developing GSA Governance Options

- Build upon existing cooperation and successful water management efforts in Indian Wells Valley
- Reinforce “local management” principles in SGMA
- Share resources and identify cohesive approach
- Costs should be equitably shared
- Represent community stakeholders through advisory committees
- Conduct robust and transparent outreach

Groundwater Sustainability Agency Board Composition & Voting

- Should each GSA-Eligible Agency have one Board Member? Some more than one?
- How will the Navy be appointed to the Board?
- How will private water companies be represented on Board decisions?
- How will mutual water companies be represented?
- How will agricultural be represented?
- How will domestic well owners be represented?
- How should voting results be decided? Simple majority? Double majority? Weighted on financial decisions according to financial contributions?

Groundwater Sustainability Agency Funding and Fees

- How will the GSA be funded?
- GSA Board Member Annual Contribution?
- In-kind contributions?
- Fees based on pumpage? Land area? Combination?
- Should pumpage fees only be charged on non-de-minimis pumpers? Or charge de-minimis pumpers a set rate based on 2AFY?
- Comply with Proposition 218

Sustainability Options

- Reduce demand
- Increase conservation
- Increase recycled water use
- Increase recharge (stormwater, recycled water, imported water)
- Brackish water project
- Import surface water



- Additional GSA-eligible agency meetings
- Develop the following:
 - Draft board composition
 - Draft voting policy
 - Draft funding and finance framework
- Decide on legal agreement (JPA? MOU?)
- Hold GSA-Notification Public Meeting in the coming months
- Prepare and sign legal documents entering into GSA

- 
- Prepare and sign legal documents entering into GSA
 - Send Notice of Intent to form GSA to State
 - Service Area Boundaries of Basin/GSA
 - Resolution Forming the New Agency (GSA)
 - New Bylaws, Ordinances, & Authorities of GSA
 - **“List of interested parties & an explanation of how their interests will be considered” in GSA development**



Joint GSA-Eligible Agency Option

Indian Wells
Valley
Groundwater
Sustainability
Agency

City
of
Ridgecrest

County
of
Kern

County
of
Inyo

County
of San
Bernardino

Indian
Wells
Valley WD

Inyokern
CSD

Advisory
Committee(s)

Technical
Committee(s)

How Public Input Should Be Used

- Local public officials and staff are committed to keeping the **public informed**, providing the public with **balanced and objective information** to assist the public in understanding SGMA, the governance options, and recommendations
- Local public officials and staff **will listen and consider public input** when evaluating options and making decisions

Coordination Efforts Required

- Data framework/management system
- Basin boundary adjustments
- Funding requests to external entities (such as the state)
- Any activities that impact the adjacent basin
- Communication with state and federal agencies (not always required, but often)

Other Potential Coordination Activities

- Projects that cross basin boundaries
- Regulation development: information sharing and attention to jurisdictions
- Public outreach and stakeholder engagement
- Monitoring protocols and coordination with adjacent basins (timing, consistency of data collection, etc.)
- Well permitting
- Contracts with consultants, facilitators, etc.

GSA-Eligible Agencies in Indian Wells Valley

- New
 - DWR and SWRCB have recently indicated the Resource Conservation Districts are GSA-eligible
 - Eastern Kern County RCD may be interested in participating on the IWV GSA