

SGMA OVERVIEW, IMPLEMENTATION, AND STATE AGENCY ROLES



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Office of Research, Planning and Performance

State Water Resources Control Board

Overview

- SGMA Basics
- State Board Role
 - Triggers
 - Reporting
 - Fees
 - State Interim Plan
- Opportunities for Public Engagement

The Basics

- Requires formation of sustainability agencies and development of sustainability plans
 - 127 High and medium priority basins
- Authorizes management tools for local agencies
- Defines timeframe for accomplishing goals
- Provides alternative if users can show basin is sustainable
- Creates state “backstop”

STATEWIDE CASGEM PRIORITIZATION

Basins displayed by priority:

43 High Priority (O)

84 Medium Priority (Y)

27 Low Priority (G)

361 Very Low Priority (Lt. G)

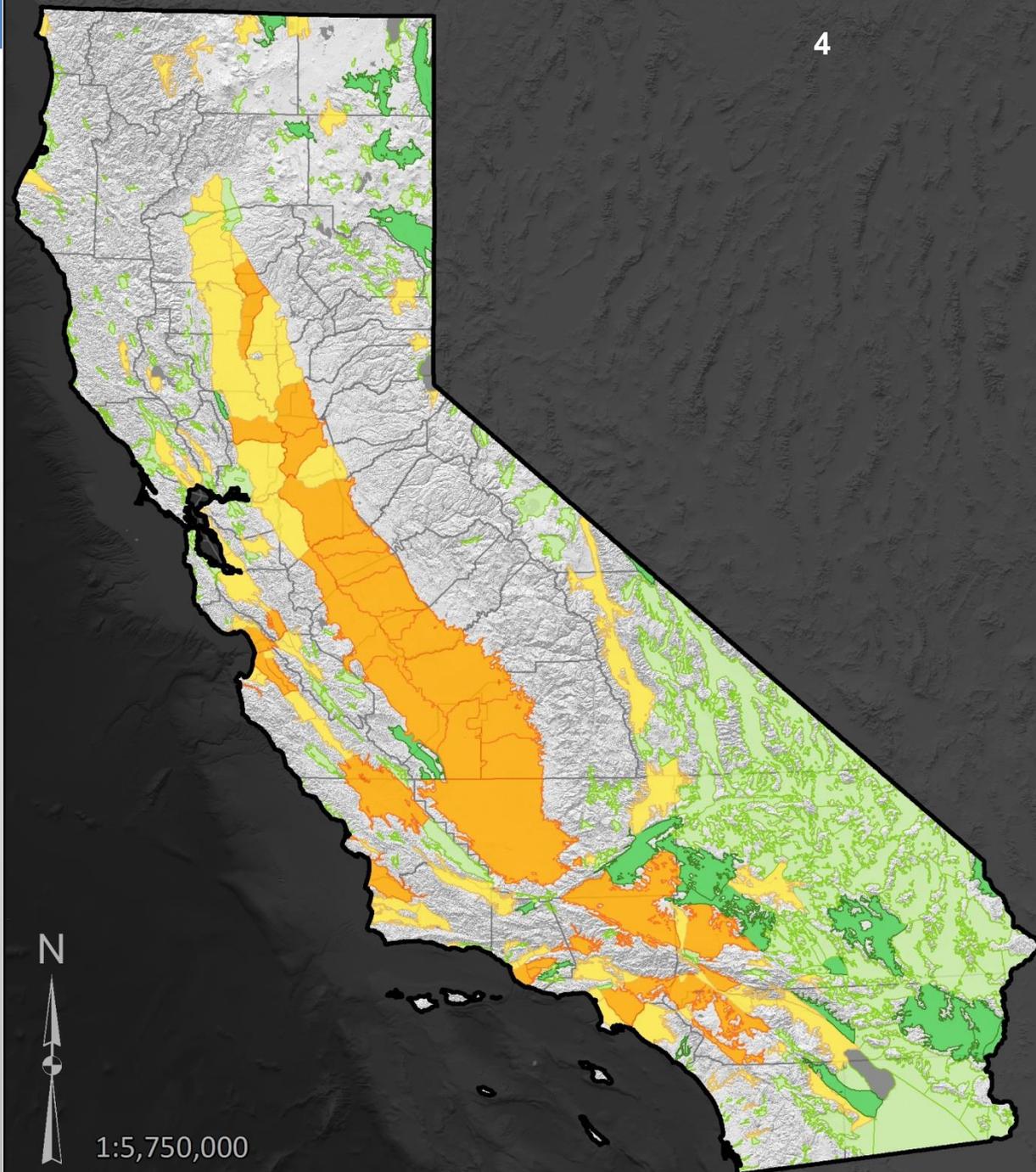
Calculation involves:

Population & Pop. Growth

Irrigated acreage

Public supply well distribution

And other variables



Where's my Basin?

- DWR's Water Management Planning Tool

- <http://www.water.ca.gov/groundwater/boundaries.cfm>



Water Management Planning Tool

[Clear all](#) [Help!](#)

Boundaries Map

- County Boundaries
- Region Office Service Areas
- Hydrologic Regions
- Prop 1 Funding Areas
- Prop 84 Funding Areas
- Regional Water Quality Control Board Boundaries
- Tribal Lands
- Military Installations, Ranges, and Training Areas
- Regional Flood Planning Boundaries
- Reclamation Districts
- CA State Park Lands
- CA Coastal Commission Lands
- Adjudicated Groundwater Basins
- CASGEM Designated Monitoring Entities as of 08-19-15
- CASGEM Groundwater Basin Prioritization
- Groundwater Management Plans
- IRWM Regions
- Federal Lands
- Disadvantaged Community Block Groups
- Disadvantaged Community Tracts
- Disadvantaged Community Places
- Water Agencies
- Bulletin 118 Groundwater Basins
- Detailed Analysis Units
- Water Plan Planning Areas
- Watersheds
- CA Senate Districts
- CA Assembly Districts

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123 Main Street, CA

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Home





Boundaries Map

Click on features in the map or see below for more information:

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Below are brief descriptions to the layers contained in the map:

County Boundaries This layer depicts the boundaries of California's Counties as developed by CAL FIRE.

Region Office Service Areas This layer depicts The coverage Area of DWR's Region Offices. [More Info...](#)

Hydrologic Regions This layer depicts the 10 areas representing the major California watersheds and is used by a variety of DWR programs including the CA Water Plan. [More Info...](#)

Prop 1 Funding Areas This layer depicts the 12 funding areas called out in Proposition 1. [More Info...](#)

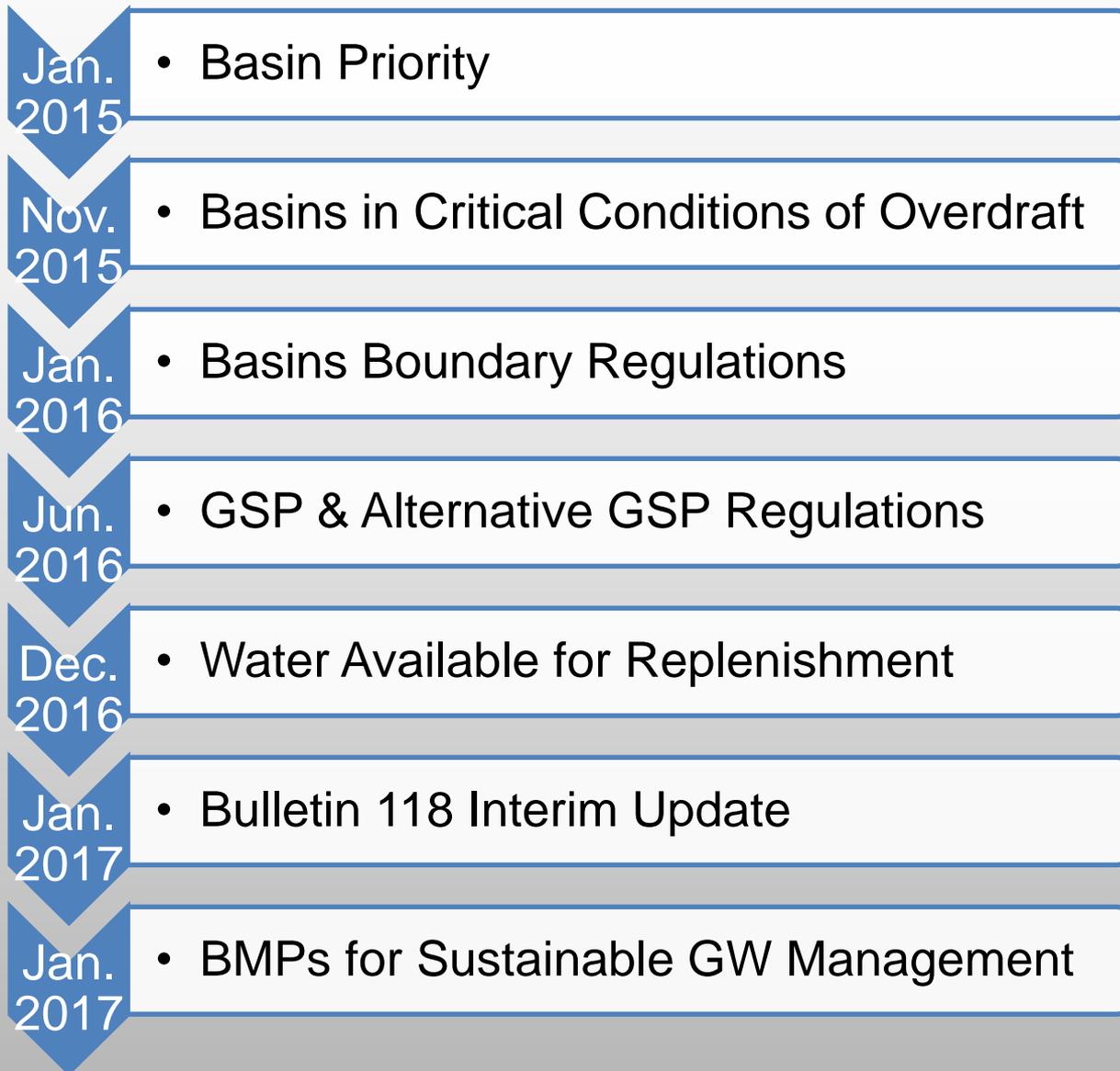
Prop 84 Funding Areas This layer depicts the 11 funding areas called out in Proposition 84. [More Info...](#)

Regional Water Quality Control Board

[Visit Website](#)



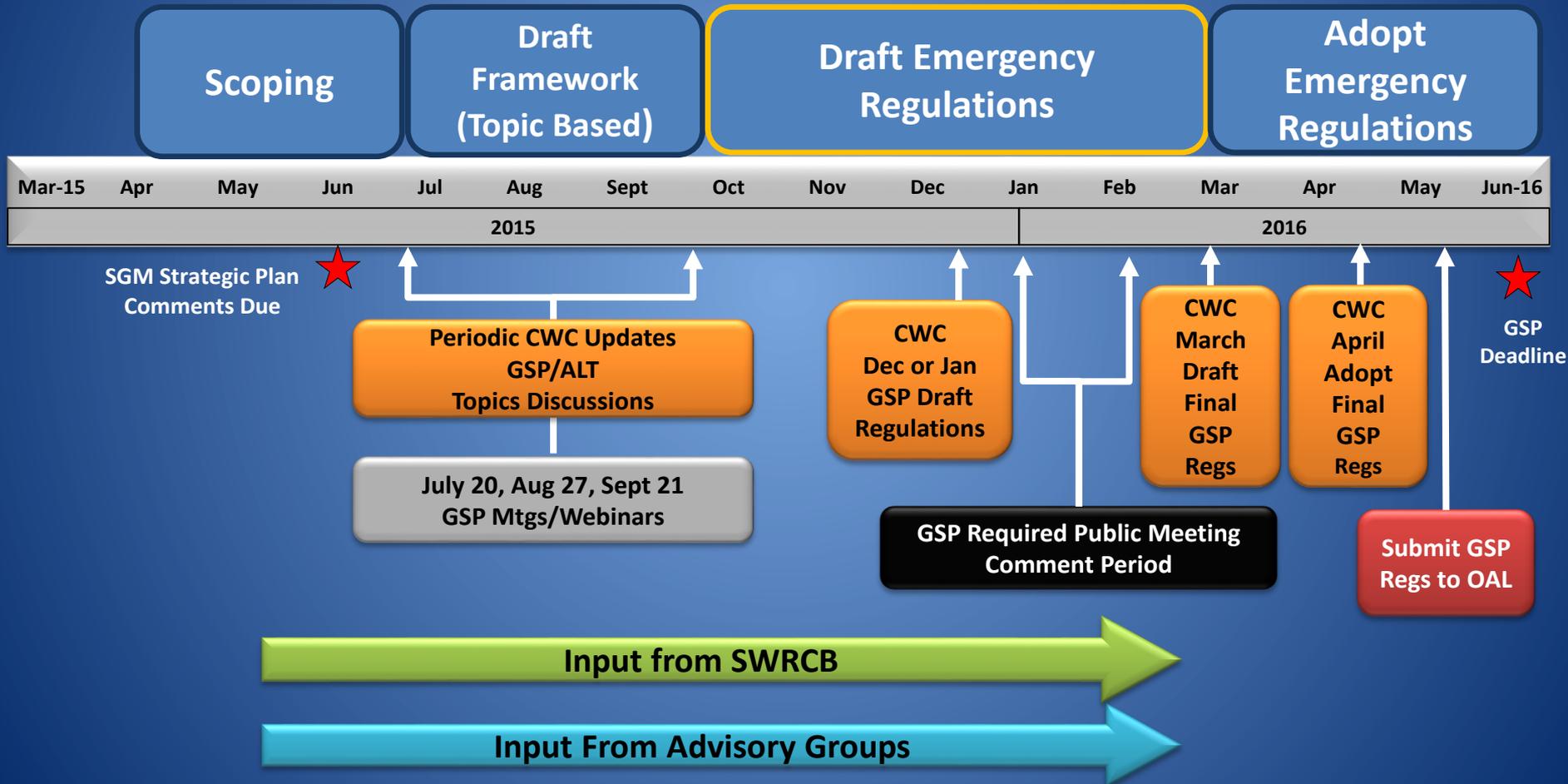
DWR Near-term Actions



Basin Boundary Revisions

- Adopted October 21 by California Water Commission
- Become effective January 1, 2016
- Provide opportunity for local agencies to revise basin boundaries based upon on scientific or jurisdictional requests
- First window: January-March 2016

Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) Emergency Regulations – Detailed Timeline



Dates and Durations are Subject to Change

Key SGMA Requirements

- Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) (2017)
 - One or more agencies
 - If more than one agency per basin, GSAs must coordinate
- GSAs Prepare Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs) (2020/2022)
 - Measurable objectives
 - Implementation milestones
 - Annual reports (water use, extraction, change in storage)
- Achieve Sustainability 20 years after plan adoption, prevent “undesirable results”

DWR and State Water Board Roles

- DWR:
 - Develop Basin Boundary and GSP Regs
 - Review GSPs, decide on adequacy, implementation
- State Water Board
 - Implement State Intervention
 - Reporting
 - Assess fees
 - Designate Probationary Basins
 - Develop Interim Plans, Implement those Plans

Intervention Triggers

After	Intervention Trigger
June 30, 2017	No Groundwater Sustainability Agency formed.
Jan. 31, 2020	<p>In basins in a condition of critical overdraft:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) No sustainability plan has been adopted, or 2) The Department of Water Resources (DWR), in consultation with the State Water Board, finds that the sustainability plan or its implementation is inadequate.
Jan. 31, 2022	<p>In other high- or medium-priority basins:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) No sustainability plan has been adopted, or 2) DWR, in consultation with the State Water Board, finds the sustainability plan or its implementation is inadequate, and the State Water Board finds that the basin is in a condition of long-term overdraft.
Jan. 31, 2025	DWR, in consultation with the State Water Board, finds that the sustainability plan is inadequate or the plan is not being implemented in a manner that is likely to achieve the sustainability goal, and the State Water Board finds there are significant depletions of interconnected surface waters.

In all triggering events, intervention is the result of failure by locals to create a GSA or adopt and implement a GSP

What will Board Intervention Look Like?

- Data
 - Same data needed by a GSA, but now managed by State.
 - Higher frequency (monthly minimum reporting)
- Fees
 - Fees associated with reporting
 - Board recovers cost for all intervention-related activities (monitoring plans, well construction, facilitation, technical studies, models)
- Interim plans
 - Pumping restrictions are most straight-forward
 - State developed physical solutions are unlikely

Local Challenges to SGMA Implementation

- Rush to fragmentation
- Overlapping governance
- Start-up costs
- Coordination
- Lack of funding can lead to intervention
- What will happen when the honeymoon is over?

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

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Statutory Requirements and Other Good Ideas

GSA Formation Requirements

SGMA Requirements (Water Code 10723-10723.8)

- Inform interested parties about the Act & GSA Formation
- Public notice
- Public hearing for GSA Formation
- An explanation of how the interests of ALL beneficial uses and users of groundwater will be *considered in the development and operation of GSA*

Potential Additional Elements

- Create baseline information materials/site
- Stakeholder assessment with eligible agencies, then interested parties
- Process to make decisions and inform interested parties
- Strategic outreach / communication plan

Required Interested Parties

Comprehensive Approach Will Identify and Factor in Interested Parties' Perspectives

- All Groundwater Users
- Holders of Overlying Rights (agriculture and domestic)
- Municipal Well Operators and Public Water Systems
- Tribes
- County
- Planning Departments / Land Use
- Local Landowners
- Disadvantaged communities
- Business
- Federal Government
- Environmental Uses
- Surface Water Users (if connection between surface and ground water)

Sustainability Plan Participation Requirements

SGMA Requirements

- Public notice
- Public hearing
- Prior to initiating plan, provide written statement to public and DWR describing how interested parties can participate.
- Shall encourage the *active involvement* of diverse social, cultural, and economic elements of the population within the groundwater basin

Potential Additional Elements

- Stakeholder assessment (tune-up)
- Convening documents (charter), including decision making and how GSA will consider public input
- Strategic outreach / communication plan
- Consider Advisory Group / how GSA will be responsive to all interests
- Mutual gains approach to negotiation

Collaborating for Success

- Document by Union of Concerned Scientists, Community Water Center, and Clean Water Fund
- Describes approaches for comprehensive stakeholder engagement
 - Generally exceed SGMA requirements, but offer a thorough approach that has been successful in other arenas
- Draws on examples from across the state
- http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/gmp/docs/local_asst/sgma_stakeholderengagement_whitepaper.pdf

Informational Flyers and Handouts

- SGMA Timeline
- Public Participation
- Funding
- Domestic Wells
- Drought
- SGMA Basics
- Others
- Handouts available at http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/gmp/local_assistance.shtml#meetings

Thank You!

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Additional Information:

www.groundwater.ca.gov

DWR – www.water.ca.gov/groundwater

State Board –

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/gmp

Lyris email alert list:

http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/resources/email_subscriptions/swrcb_subscribe.shtml

