

**STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
BOARD MEETING SESSION – OFFICE OF SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER
MANAGEMENT
APRIL 15, 2025**

ITEM 5

SUBJECT

UPDATE ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT ACT.

DISCUSSION

The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) (Senate Bill [SB] 1168, Assembly Bill 1739, and SB 1319 (Statutes 2014)) requires local groundwater sustainability agencies (GSAs) to develop and implement groundwater sustainability plans (GSPs) so that the many uses of groundwater can continue sustainably into the future. If local GSAs do not propose an adequate plan to sustainably manage groundwater use in their basin, SGMA gives the State Water Board authority to protect groundwater resources through a process called “state intervention.” State intervention is in addition to local management and is intended to be temporary, lasting only until local agencies demonstrate adequate management of their respective basins.

Since 2023, the Department of Water Resources (DWR) has determined the GSPs for seven groundwater basins to be “inadequate.” Six of the basins, all high-priority and subject to critical conditions of overdraft, were referred to the State Water Board for state intervention in March 2023. The seventh basin, the Pleasant Valley Subbasin in Fresno County, was referred to the Board in March 2025. The DWR “inadequate” determination regarding the GSPs for these basins triggered the Board’s state intervention role. (Wat. Code, § 10735.2, subd. (a)(3).).

Office of Sustainable Groundwater Management staff last updated the Board on state intervention activities generally in December 2023. Since then:

- The Board designated two basins probationary and continued a noticed probationary designation hearing for a third basin.
- DWR referred an additional basin to the Board.
- Many of the GSAs for the first six basins made substantial changes to their plans.
- Staff have continued to evaluate fee schedules and improve the Board’s groundwater extraction reporting system.

Staff will present on progress made since the last update and discuss overall themes identified in GSP review.

POLICY ISSUE

None.

FISCAL IMPACT

None.

REGIONAL BOARD IMPACT

None.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

None.