

Regional Water Quality Control Board  
North Coast Region

Executive Officer's Summary Report  
Thursday, November 19, 2015  
Regional Water Board Office  
Santa Rosa, California

ITEM: 9

SUBJECT: Information Item on Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) and associated State and Regional Board responsibilities/actions (*Erik Ekdahl, Groundwater Management Program Manager, Office of Research, Planning, and Performance, State Water Resources Control Board*)

BOARD ACTION: This is an information item only. No action is necessary.

BACKGROUND: The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) provides a new framework to support local groundwater management. Implementation will be through formation of local groundwater sustainability agencies (GSAs) that develop groundwater sustainability plans for their basin. These sustainability plans will rely on the new tools and authorities SGMA grants to GSAs. All alluvial basins identified in Department of Water Resources (DWR) Bulletin 118 as high or medium priority must implement sustainability plans. GSAs must be formed in these high or medium priority basins by mid-2017, and must have sustainability plans in place by either 2020 or 2022, depending on the condition of the basin. If a basin fails to form a GSA, does not adopt a sustainability plan, or has a plan that DWR has found inadequate, the State Water Board will begin a state intervention process. During state intervention, the State Water Board has authority to collect groundwater pumping data and use that information to develop an interim management plan.

DISCUSSION: State Water Board staff will provide an update on current activities related to SGMA, including data management planning, coordination with DWR, and DWR development of regulations for sustainability plan requirements and basin boundary changes. The updates on current activities will be placed in the context of groundwater basins within the North Coast Region.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS: None.