Groundwater Legislation Timeline

Jan 1, 2015
Local Agencies may no longer adopt or update GMPs for high and medium priority basins.

Jan 31, 2015 *
DWR updates basin prioritization. **

2015 - 2016 *
DWR identifies basins subject to critical conditions of overdraft.

Jan 1, 2016
DWR adopts regulations to revise basin boundaries.

Apr 1, 2016
Adjudicated basins submit final judgment to DWR and begin submitting annual reports to DWR.

Jun 1, 2016
DWR adopts regulations for evaluating and implementing GSPs and coordination agreements and DWR adopts regulations for evaluating alternatives to GSPs.

Dec 31, 2016 *
DWR publishes report on water available for groundwater replenishment.

2017
DWR publishes Bulletin 118- Interim Update with updated Basin Boundaries, updated Basin Prioritization, and reissues (as needed) basins subject to critical conditions of overdraft.

Jan 1, 2017 *
DWR publishes BMPs for sustainable management of groundwater.

Jan 1, 2017
Alternative to a GSP due to DWR.

Jun 30, 2017
Establish GSAs (or equivalent) for all high and medium priority basins.

Jul 1, 2017
County must affirm or disaffirm responsibility as GSA if no GSA has been established.

2020
DWR publishes Bulletin 118- Comprehensive Update.

Jan 31, 2020
High and medium priority basins identified subject to critical conditions of overdraft must be managed under a GSP.

On April 1 following GSP adoption and annually thereafter, GSAs provide report on progress towards sustainability to DWR.

Jan 31, 2022
All other high and medium priority basins must be managed under a GSP.

On April 1 following GSP adoption and annually thereafter, GSAs provide report on progress towards sustainability to DWR.

2015 2016 2017 2018 2019 2020 2021 2022 2025

Jun 30, 2017
Board may hold a hearing to designate a basin as "probationary" if a GSA or approved alternative is not established.

Jul 1, 2017
Board adopts a fee schedule for "state back-stop" related costs.

Dec 15, 2017
Board begins collection of annual reports from persons extracting more than two acre feet per year from areas not managed by a GSA.

Jan 1, 2018
Board may begin to develop interim plans if a local agency has not remedied the deficiency that resulted in the "probationary basin" status. The Board consults with DWR.

Probationary basins may petition for un-designation. The Board consults with DWR to determine if the petition is complete. The Board acts on the petition within 90 days of submittal.

Jan 31, 2020
Board may hold a hearing to designate a critically-overdrafted basin as "probationary" if DWR, in consultation with the Board, determines that the GSP is inadequate or will not achieve sustainability.

Jan 2021
Board may begin developing interim plans for critically overdrafted "probationary basins" one year after the probationary designation, if the Board, in consultation with the DWR, determines that a local agency has not remedied the deficiency that resulted in the probationary status.

Jan 31, 2022
Board may hold a hearing to designate a high and medium priority basin as "probationary" if DWR, in consultation with the Board, determines that the GSP is inadequate or will not achieve sustainability.

Jan 1, 2025
Board may designate a basin as "probationary" if DWR, in consultation with the Board, determines that the GSP is inadequate or not being implemented correctly, and the Board determines that the basin is in a condition where groundwater extractions result in significant depletion of interconnected surface waters.

- Water Board Action
- DWR Action
- Joint Water Board and DWR Action
- Local Action

GMP Groundwater Management Plan
GSA Groundwater Sustainability Agency
GSP Groundwater Sustainability Plan
BMPs Best Management Practices
***** Elements to be documented in Bulletin 118 Updates
****** Basin prioritization will be updated prior to each Bulletin 118 Update (estimated to be every 5 years)

October 2014