

Sustainable Groundwater Management Act Implementation Update

Item #5

April 15, 2025



State Water Resources Control Board

Language Interpretation In Person

Interpretación en persona

ਵਿਅਕਤੀਗਤ ਤੌਰ 'ਤੇ ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਵਿੱਚ ਵਿਆਖਿਆ

Please visit the table outside this room for a headset or if you have technical difficulties.

Diríjase a la mesa fuera de esta sala para solicitar un auricular o si tiene dificultades técnicas.

ਇਸ ਕਮਰੇ ਦੇ ਬਾਹਰ ਮੇਜ਼ 'ਤੇ ਜਾਓ ਜੇਕਰ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਹੈੱਡਸੈੱਟ ਦੀ ਲੋੜ ਹੈ ਜਾਂ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਕੋਈ ਤਕਨੀਕੀ ਮੁਸ਼ਕਲ ਪੇਸ਼ ਆ ਰਹੀ ਹੈ।



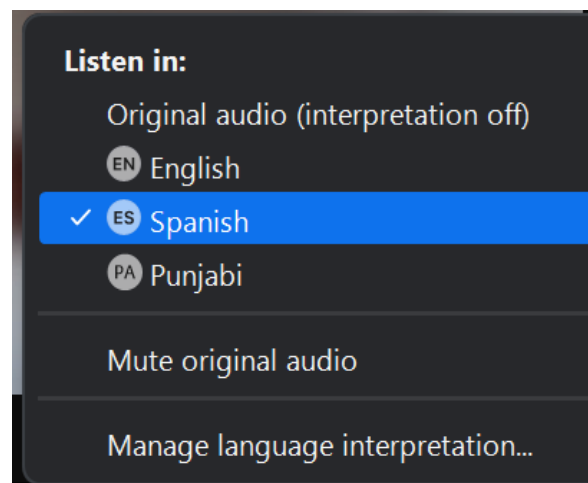
Opción de Interpretación en Zoom

- Seleccione el icono de interpretación desde los controles de la pantalla
- Seleccione español (*Spanish*)
- Seleccione la opción para poner el audio original en silencio (*Mute Original Audio*)



Language Interpretation through Zoom

- Click the Interpretation icon in your meeting controls
- Select Spanish OR English OR Punjabi
- Mute Original Audio



ਜੂਮ ਰਾਹੀਂ ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਅਨੁਵਾਦ

- ਆਪਣੇ ਮੀਟਿੰਗ ਕੰਟਰੋਲਾਂ ਵਿੱਚ ਅਨੁਵਾਦ ("Interpretation") ਆਈਕਨ ਤੇ ਕਲਿੱਕ ਕਰੋ
- ਸਪੈਨਿਸ਼ ਜਾਂ ਅੰਗਰੇਜ਼ੀ ਜਾਂ ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਚੁਣੋ
- ਮੂਲ ਆਡੀਓ ਨੂੰ ਮਿਊਟ (ਆਵਾਜ਼ ਬੰਦ) ਕਰੋ

PI Presentation in English's screen

PE Presentacion Espanol's screen

PI Presentation in Punjabi's screen

To view slides in your preferred language, click on "Presentation in English," "Presentación en español," or "Presentation in Punjabi" at the top of the screen.

Para ver las diapositivas en su idioma preferido, haga clic en "Presentation in English", "Presentación en español", o "Presentation in Punjabi" en la parte superior de la pantalla.

ਸਲਾਈਡਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਆਪਣੀ ਪਸੰਦੀਦਾ ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਵਿੱਚ ਦੇਖਣ ਲਈ, ਸਕ੍ਰੀਨ ਦੇ ਉੱਪਰ "Presentation in English," "Presentación en español," or "Presentation in Punjabi" 'ਤੇ ਕਲਿੱਕ ਕਰੋ।

Sustainable Groundwater Management Act Implementation Update

Brianna St. Pierre

Eric Holmes

Amanda Howery

April 15, 2025

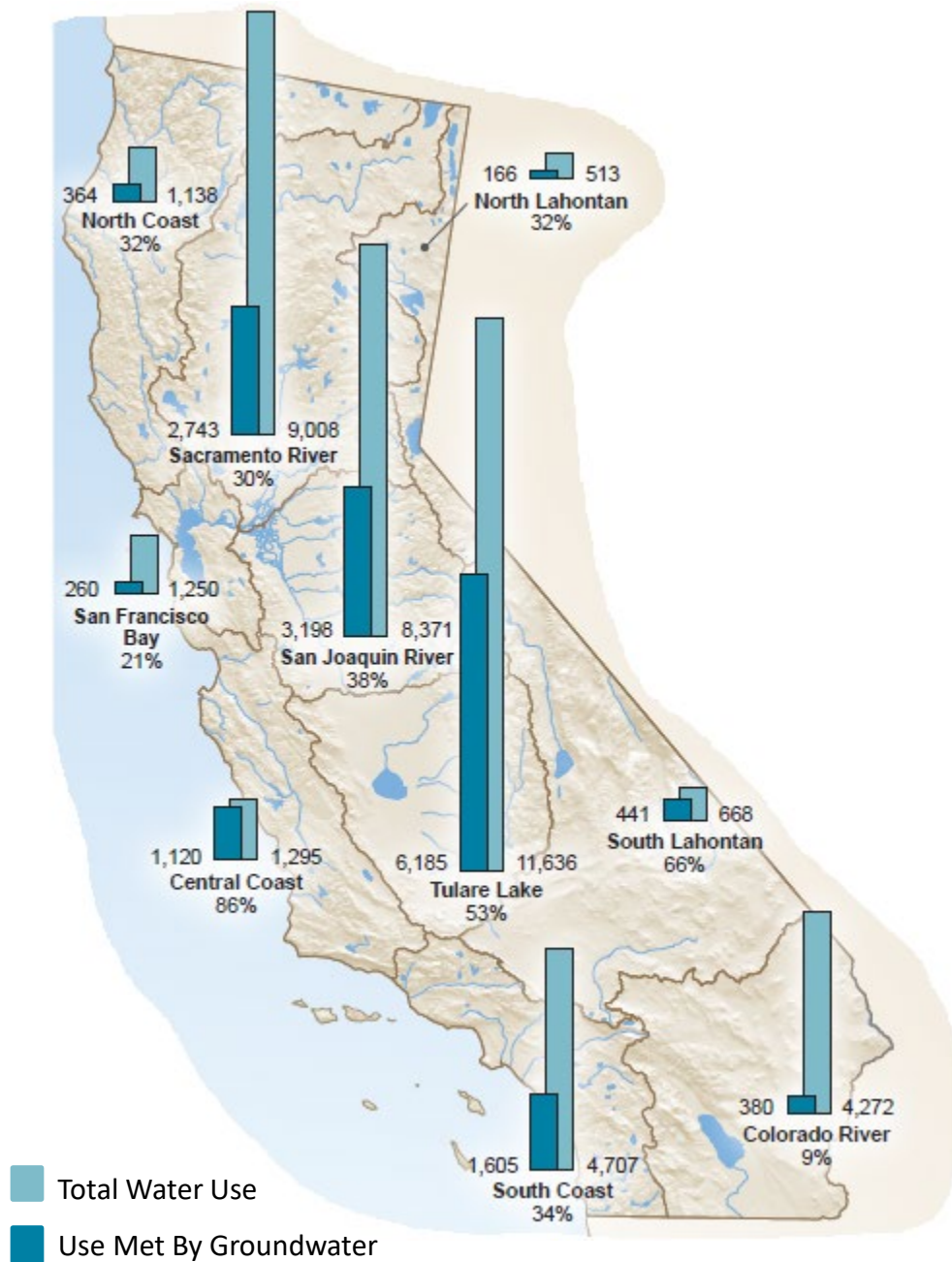


State Water Resources Control Board



We will discuss **SGMA** Updates

1. **SGMA basics and state intervention**
2. **Basin status**
3. **Basin progress: common themes**
4. **Recent updates to GEARS**
5. **Emerging issues**



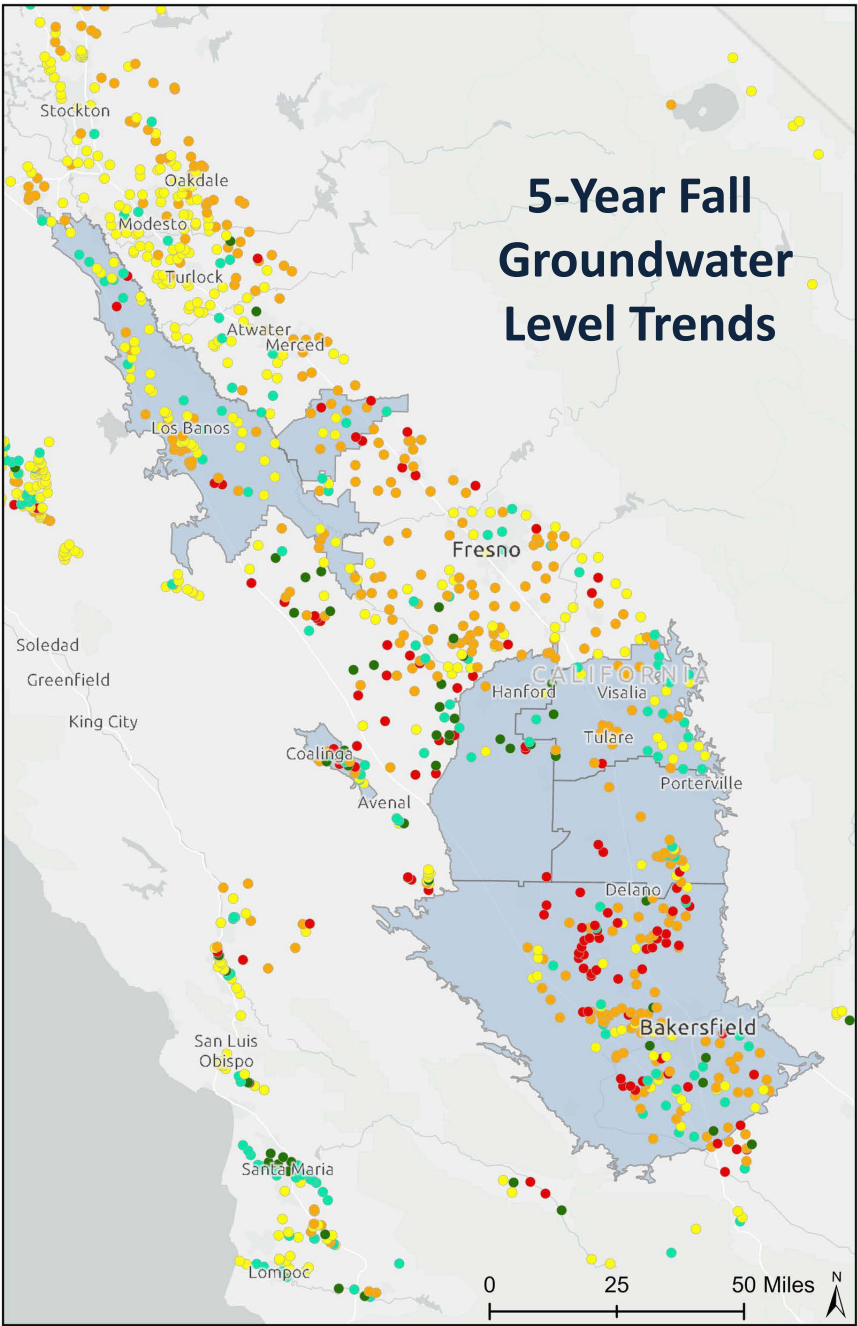
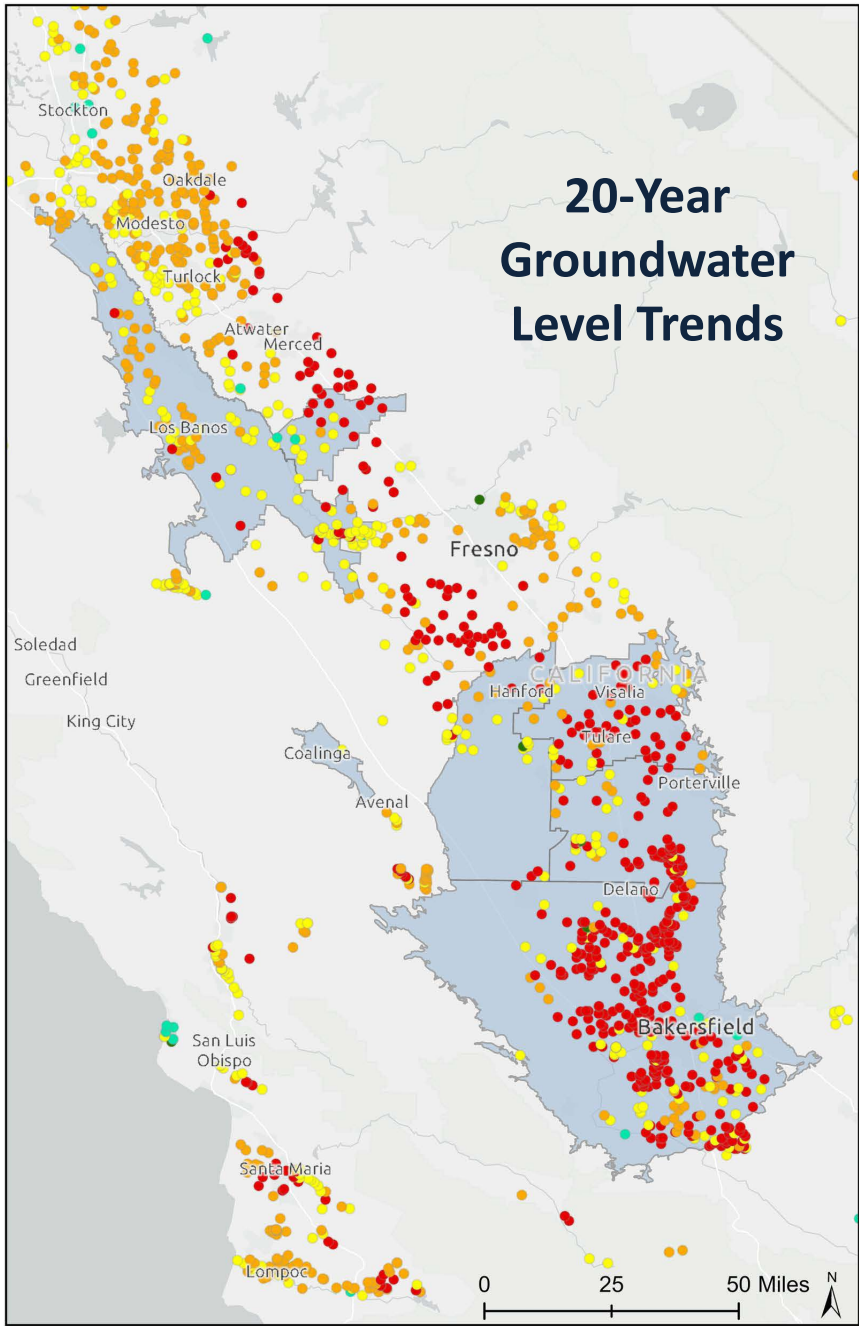
Source: California Water Plan Update 2013

80%

of Californians rely on
GROUNDWATER
for part of their water supply

Groundwater levels continue to decline

- Substantial Increase
- Increase
- No Change
- Decline
- Substantial Decline



Sustainable Groundwater Management Act

Requires formation of groundwater sustainability agencies that must:



Create groundwater sustainability plans



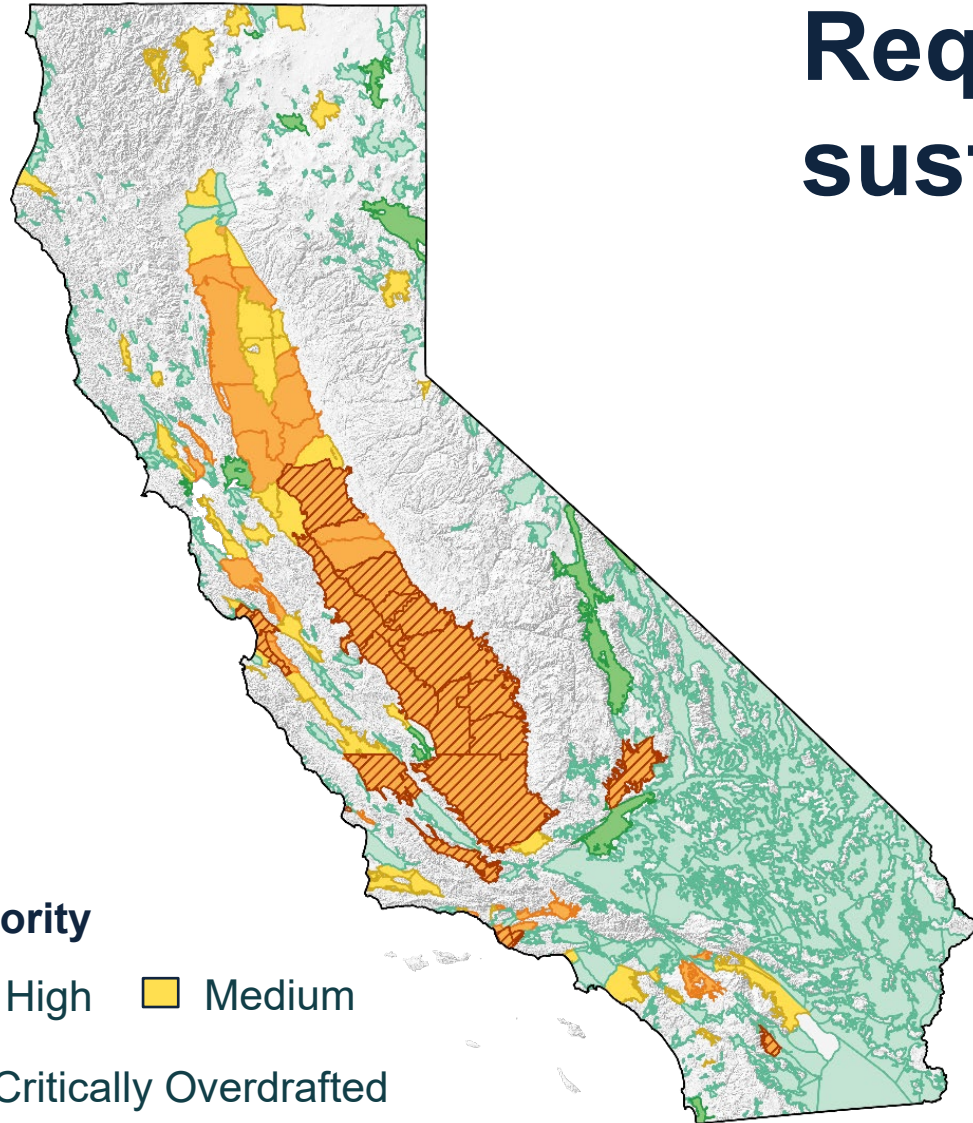
Submit annual reports



Periodically evaluate GSPs



Achieve basin sustainability goal in
20 years



What is Sustainability under SGMA?

Sustainability happens when a basin operates within its *sustainable yield* and not experiencing *undesirable results*.

Undesirable results are the significant and unreasonable occurrences of:



Groundwater
Level Declines



Storage
Reduction



Seawater
Intrusion



Degraded
Quality



Land
Subsidence



Surface Water
Depletion

...caused by groundwater conditions occurring throughout the basin.

GSAs aren't required to address undesirable results that occurred prior to 2015

“ Where a local groundwater management agency is not managing its groundwater sustainably, **the state needs to protect the resource** until... a local groundwater management agency can sustainably manage the groundwater basin. ”

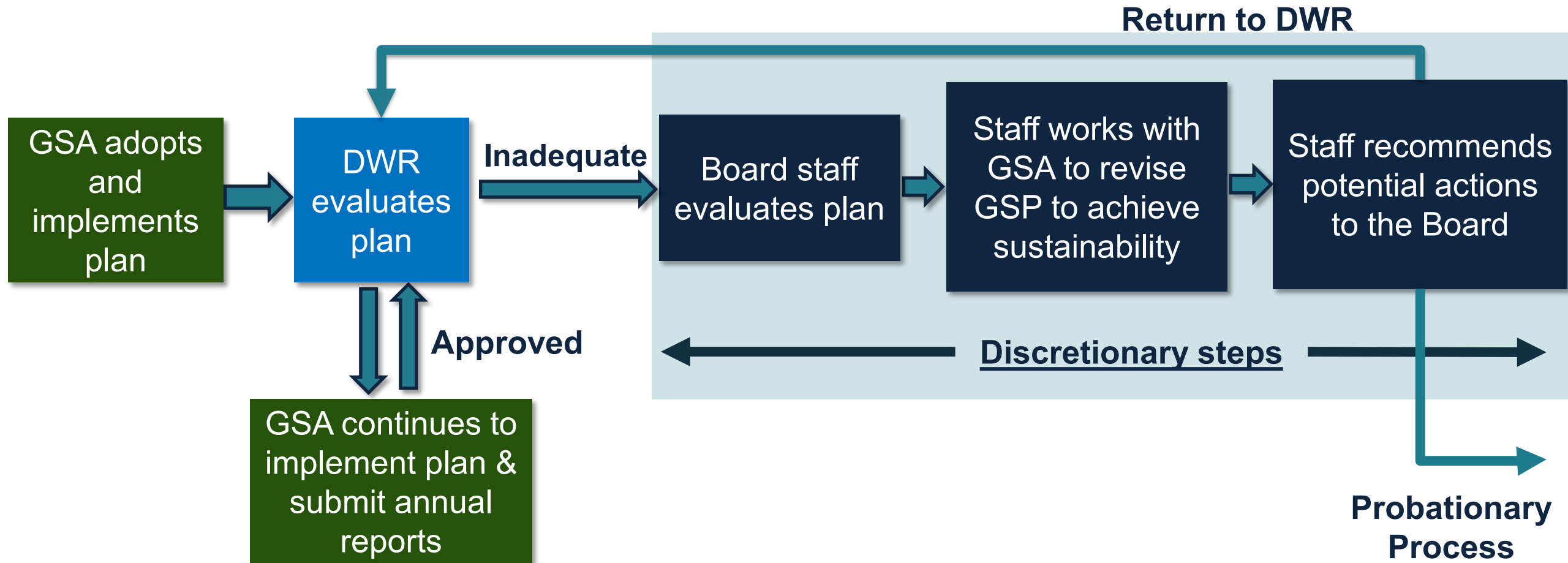
California Legislature, 2014

The Board Can Act As A Backstop

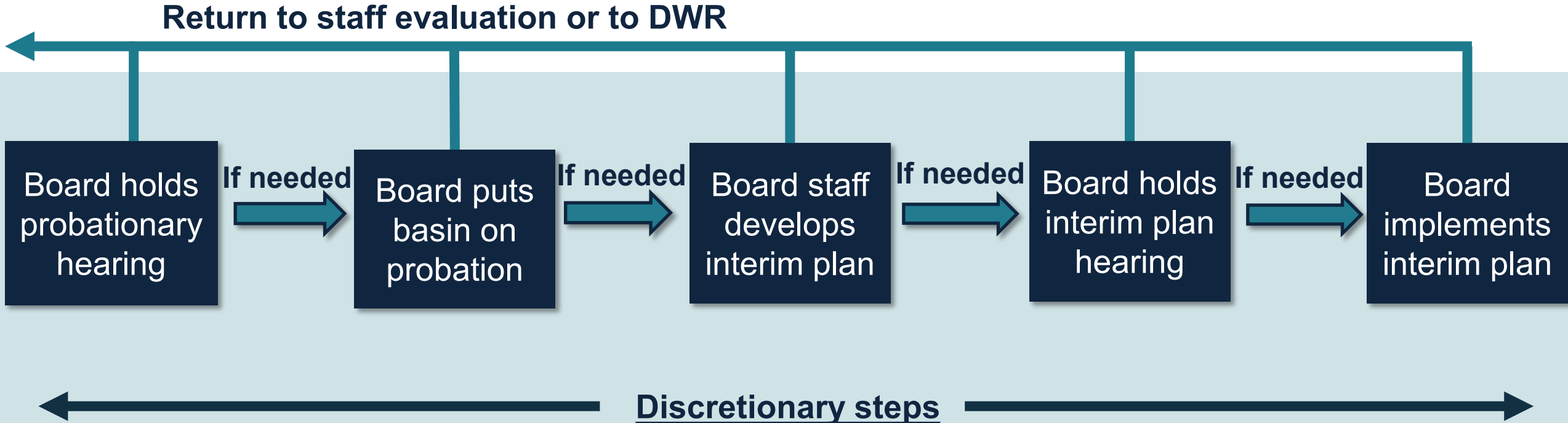
- ① Only when local efforts are insufficient.
- ② Temporarily protects the basin until locals come up-to-speed.
- ③ Backstop is triggered by deadlines and deficiencies.



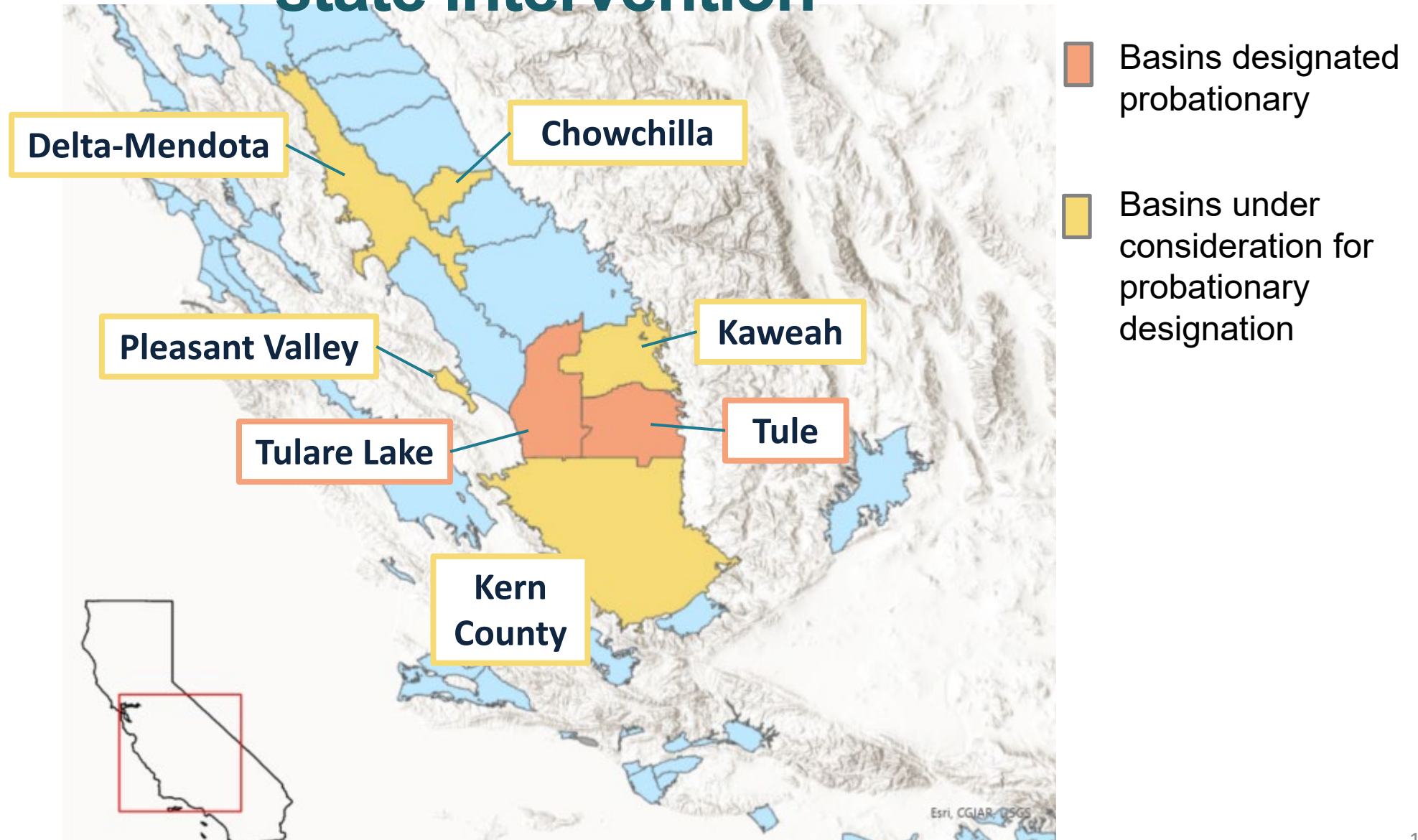
DWR and State Water Board Have Roles in the State Intervention Process



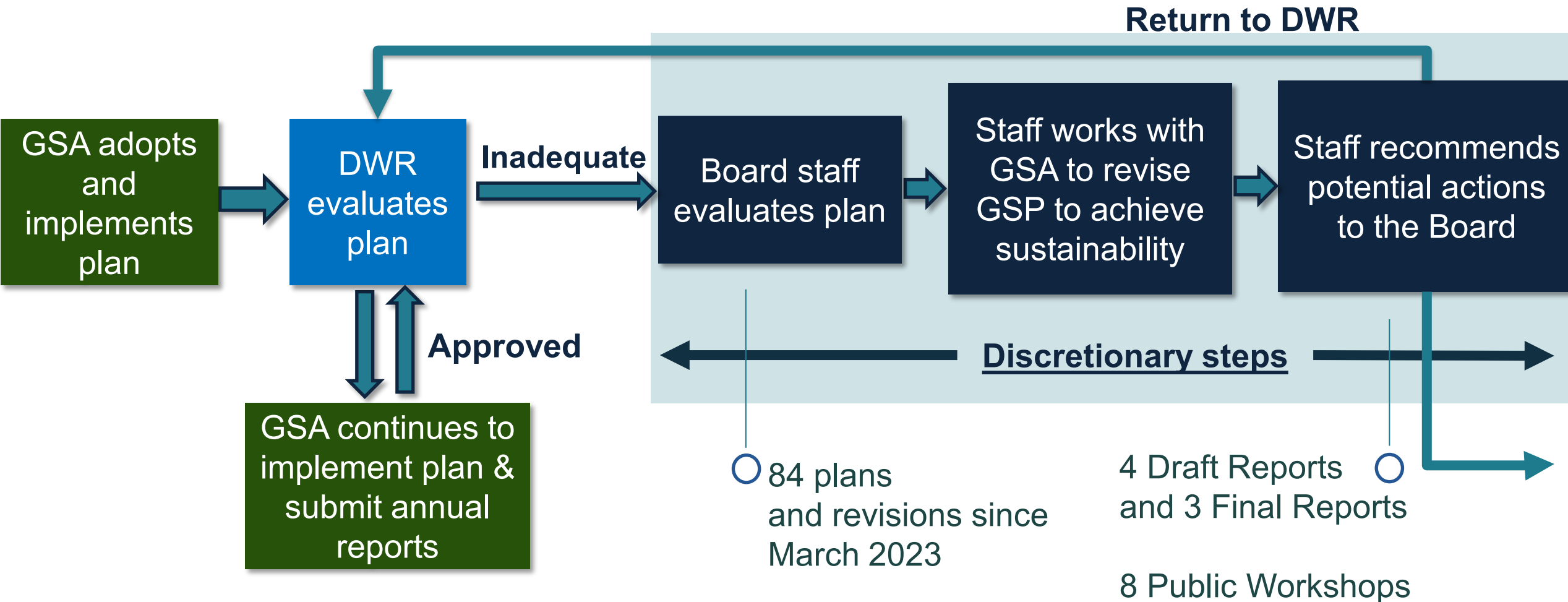
DWR and State Water Board Have Roles in the State Intervention Process



There are currently seven groundwater basins subject to state intervention



DWR and State Water Board Have Roles in the State Intervention Process:



DWR and State Water Board Have Roles in the State Intervention Process

Return to staff evaluation or to DWR



Discretionary steps

- 3 hearings:
Tulare Lake (4/2024)
Tule (9/2024)
Kern County (2/2025)

- 2 basins on probation:
Tulare Lake (4/2024)
Tule (10/2024)

Tulare Lake Subbasin

Last Action

April 16, 2024 - Board probationary designation

Current Status

September 12, 2024 - All actions related to the probationary designation were suspended, due to ongoing litigation.



Tule Subbasin

Last Action

September 17, 2024 - Board probationary designation

Current Status



Staff – GSA meetings



Extraction recording
(began Jan. 1)

Next Steps

Notice of interim plan hearing is **not anticipated before late 2025** (minimum 90-day notice period)

February 1, 2026 – first extraction reports due



Delta-Mendota Subbasin

Last Action

July 2024 – GSAs adopted new, single GSP

Current Status



Staff – GSA meetings

Next Steps

Late 2025 - Staff expects to release a recommendation for Board action.



Chowchilla Subbasin

Last Action

March 2025 – GSAs adopted newest revised plan

Current Status



Staff – GSA meetings



Drafting Board staff recommendations

Next Steps

April or May 2025 - Staff to release a recommendation for Board action



Kern County Subbasin

Last Action

February 20, 2025 – Part 1 of Board Probationary Hearing

Current Status



Review GSA outreach plan



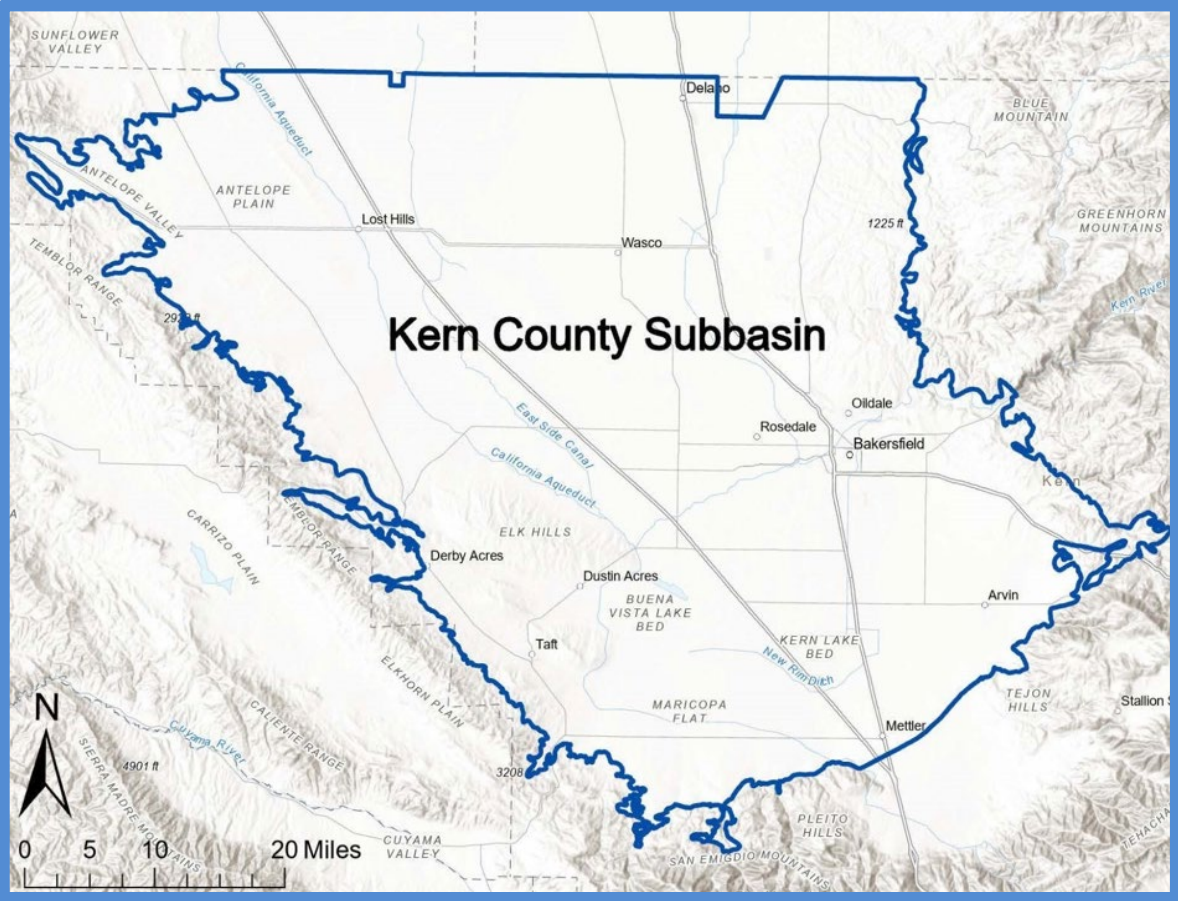
Staff – GSA meetings



Revised GSP due **June 20**

Next Steps

September 17, 2025 – continue February 20 Probationary Hearing



Kaweah Subbasin

Last Action

January 7, 2025 - Board
Probationary Hearing cancelled

Current Status



Staff – GSA
meetings



Drafting Board staff
recommendations



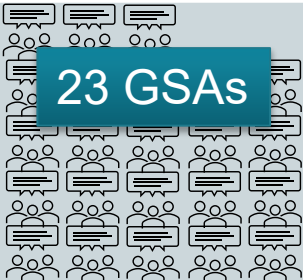
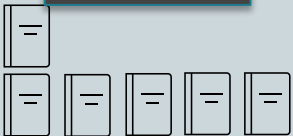







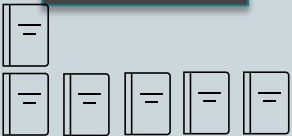
Next Steps

Summer 2025 – Potential Board action



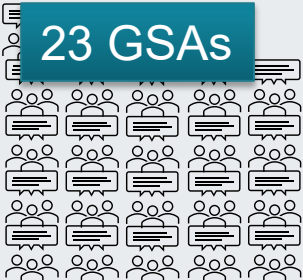











Basin governance is complex and fluid

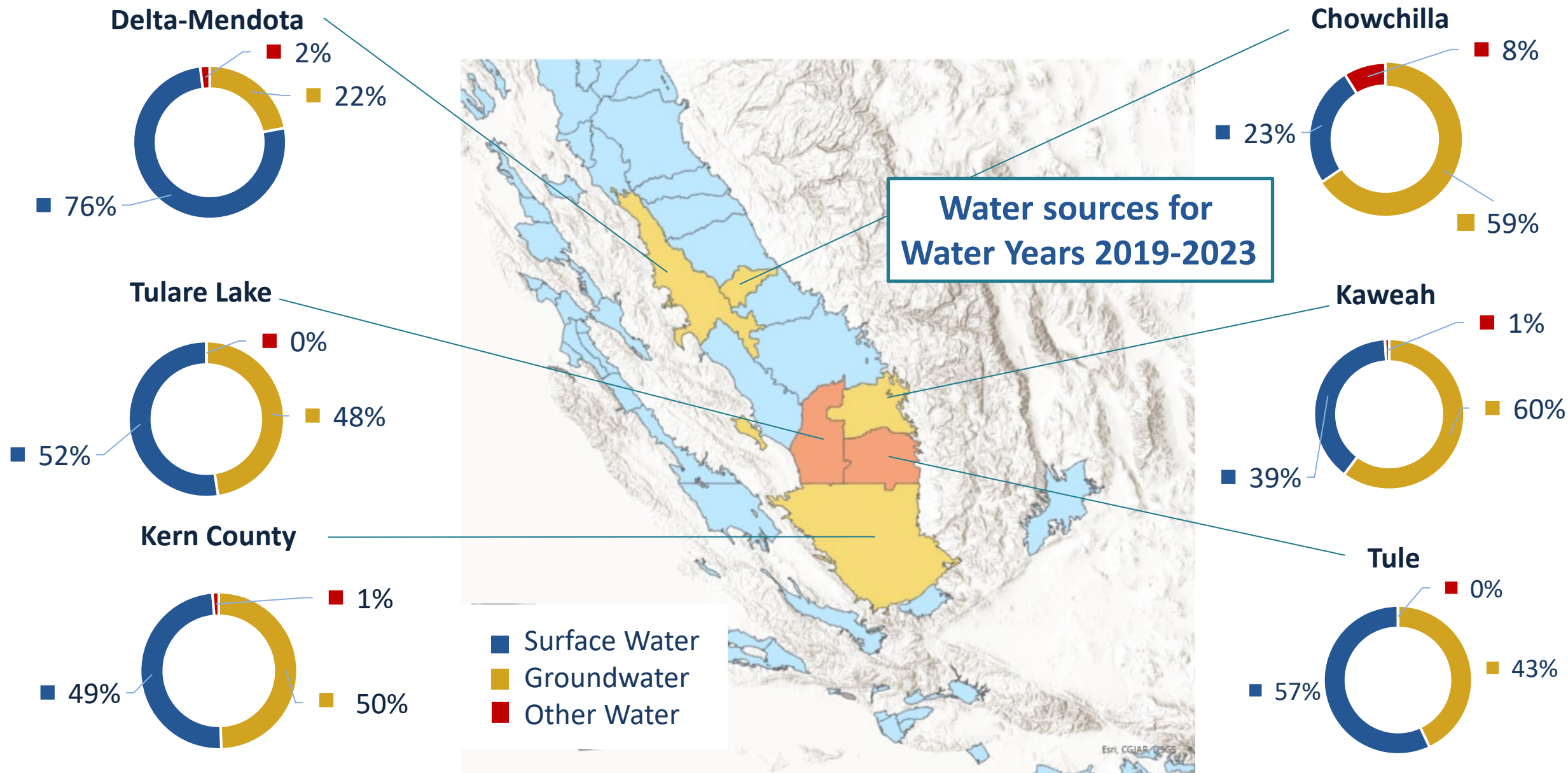
March
2023

Chowchilla	Delta-Mendota	Kaweah	Kern County	Tulare Lake	Tule
<div>4 GSAs</div> <div></div> <div>1 GSP</div> <div></div>	<div>23 GSAs</div> <div></div> <div>6 GSPs</div> <div></div>	<div>3 GSAs</div> <div></div> <div>3 GSPs</div> <div></div>	<div>17 GSAs</div> <div></div> <div>6+ GSPs</div> <div></div>	<div>5 GSAs</div> <div></div> <div>1 GSP</div> <div></div>	<div>7 GSAs</div> <div></div> <div>6 GSPs</div> <div></div>

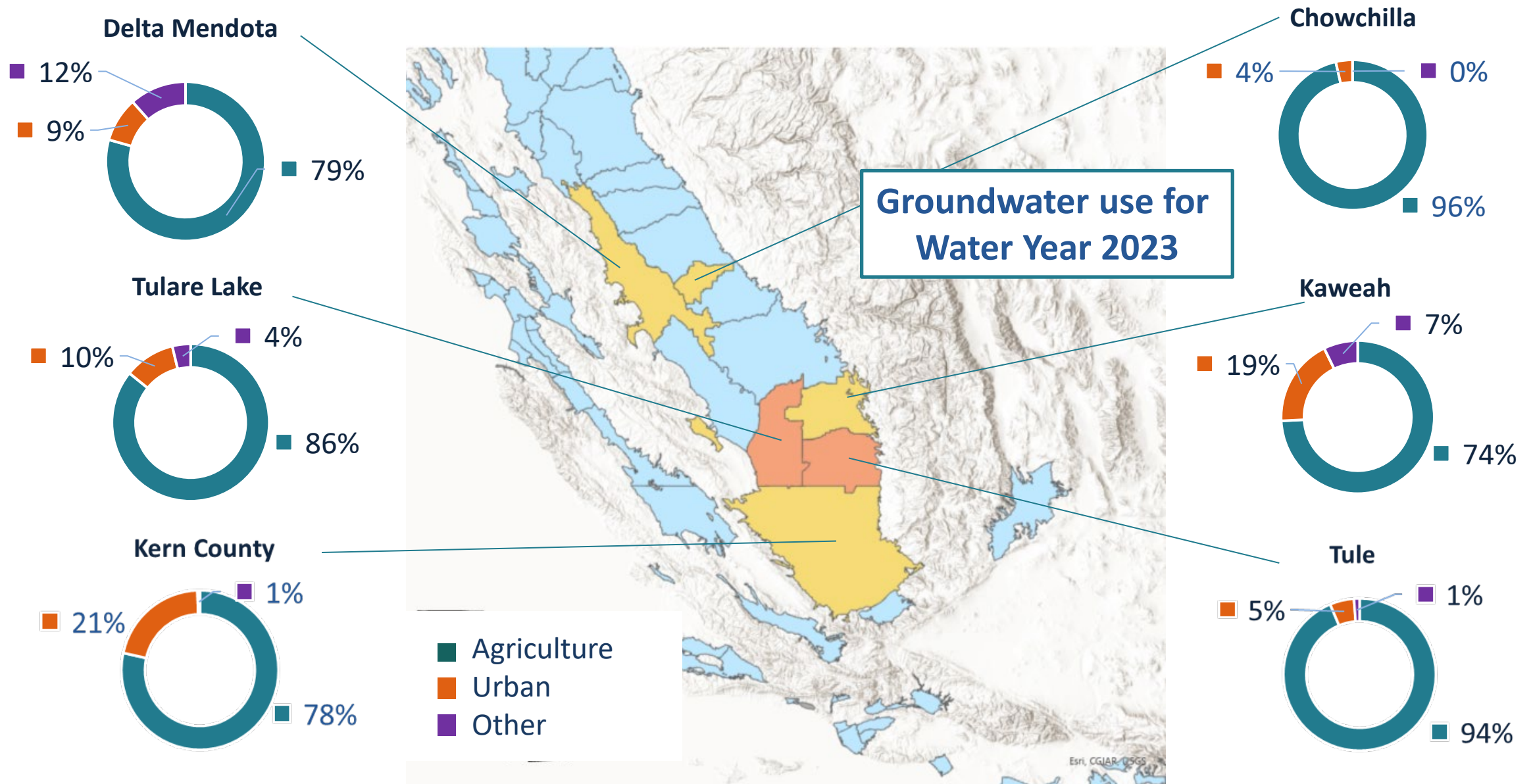
March
2025

Chowchilla	Delta-Mendota	Kaweah	Kern County	Tulare Lake	Tule
<div>4 GSAs</div> <div></div> <div>1 GSP</div> <div></div>	<div>23 GSAs</div> <div></div> <div>1 GSP</div> <div></div>	<div>3 GSAs</div> <div></div> <div>3 GSPs</div> <div></div>	<div>20 GSAs</div> <div></div> <div>7 GSPs</div> <div></div>	<div>5 GSAs</div> <div></div> <div>5 GSPs</div> <div></div>	<div>13 (?) GSAs</div> <div></div> <div>9 GSPs</div> <div></div>

Groundwater is key to the basins' water portfolios

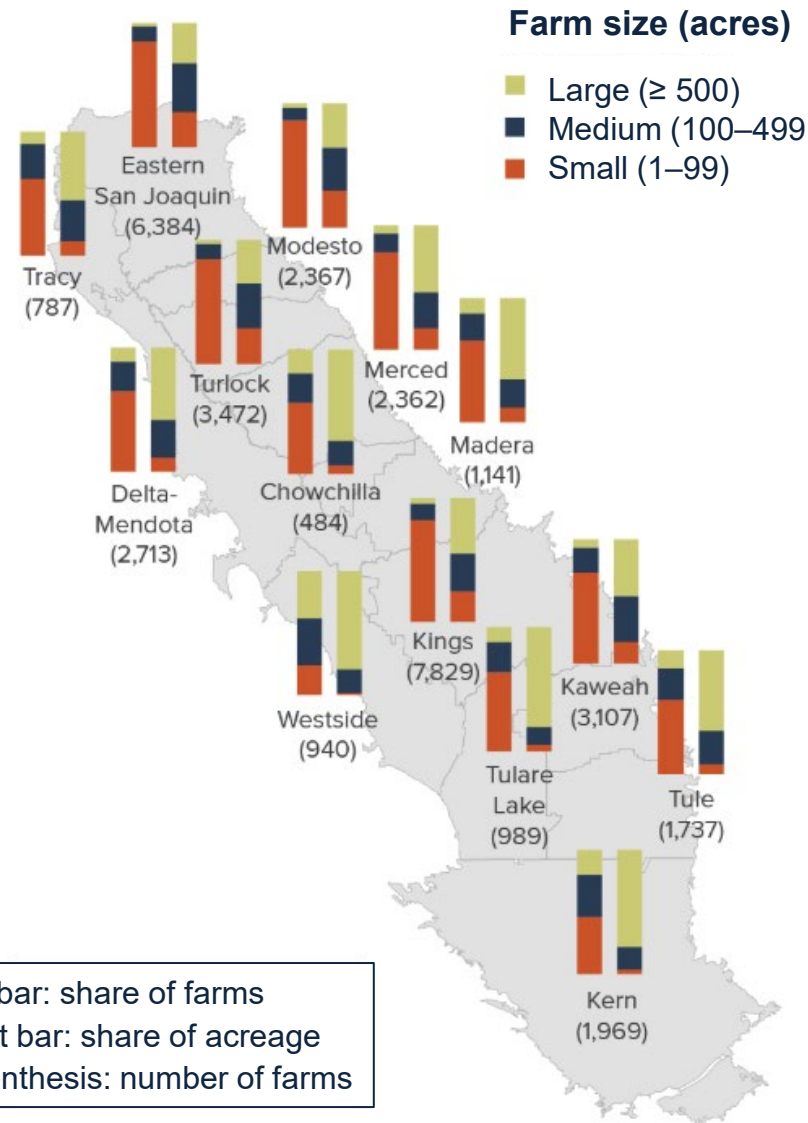


Most of the groundwater is used for agriculture



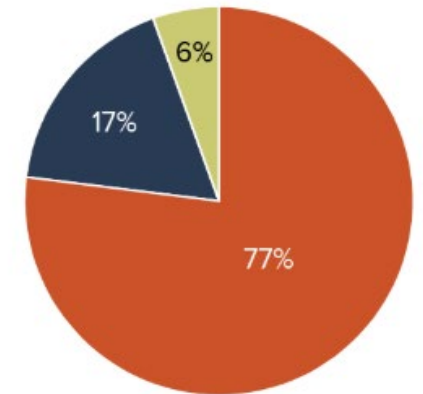
Large farms make up most cropped acres in the San Joaquin Valley, but smaller farms are still part of the puzzle

Distribution by groundwater basin

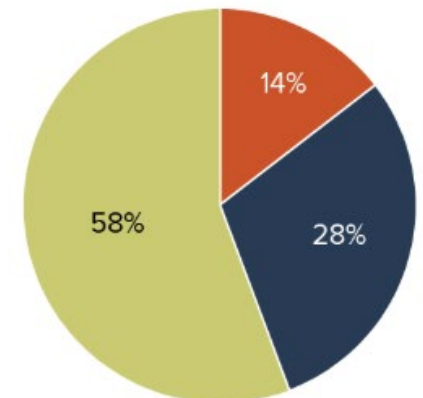


Valley-wide Distribution

Current farm count



Current cropped acreage



Source: [PPIC 2023](#)

The basin plans started with similar issues



Groundwater
Level
Declines



Storage
Reduction



Seawater
Intrusion



Degraded
Quality



Land
Subsidence



Surface
Water
Depletion

Chowchilla

Delta-Mendota

Kaweah

Kern

Tulare Lake

Tule

X

X

X

X

X

X

X

X

X

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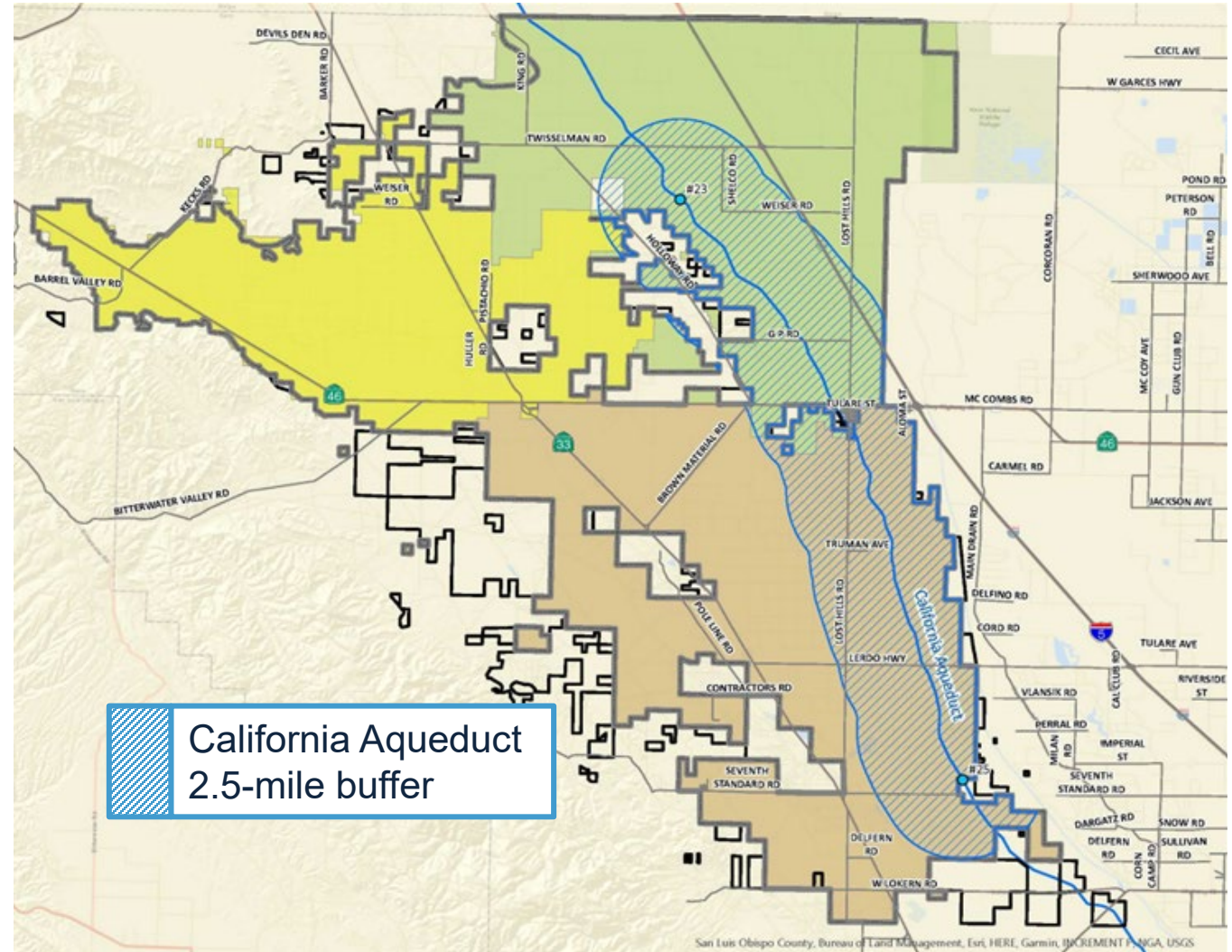
X

X

Spotlight: Creative local subsidence solutions

Kern County Subbasin

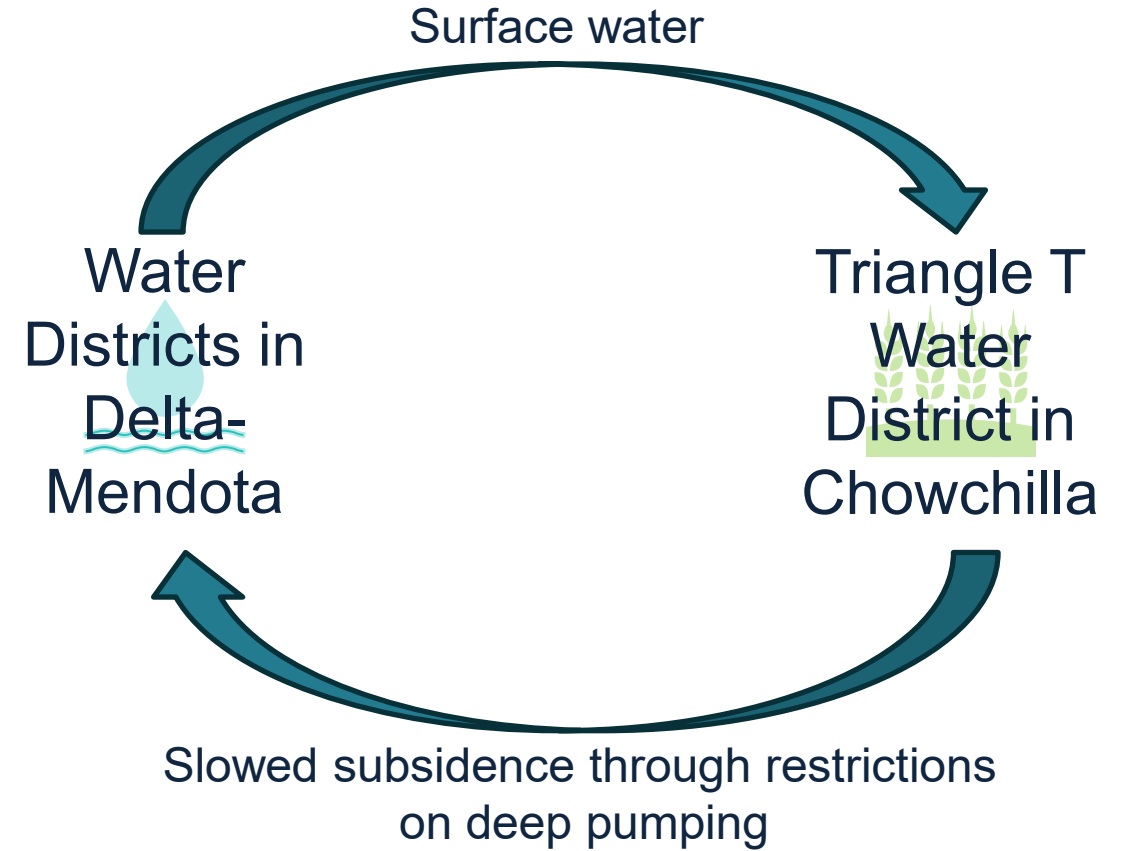
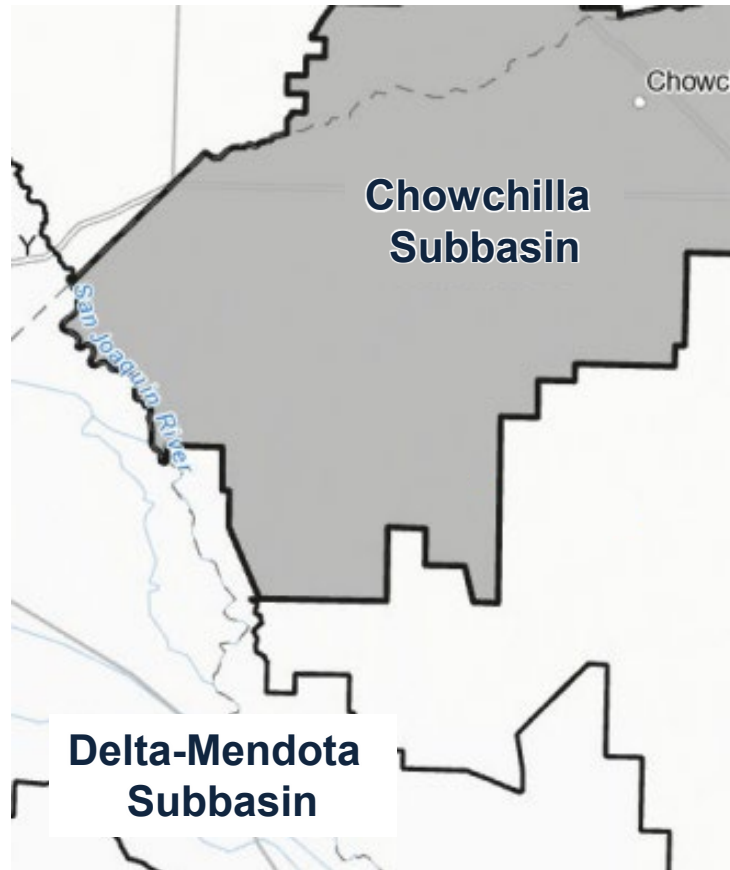
Westside District Water Authority designates a 2.5-mile drilling and pumping buffer around the California Aqueduct



Source: [Net-Zero Well Drilling Moratorium within Proximity to Critical Infrastructure - Westside District Water Authority GSA](#)

Spotlight: Creative local subsidence solutions

Delta-Mendota and Chowchilla Subbasins



Spotlight: Kaweah Subbasin's inclusive engagement in developing mitigation programs



Learning from Public Engagement Processes



**Need for basic
SGMA education**



**Concerns about
fees**



**Expansion of
language services**



**Safety and power
dynamics**



**Gaps in GSA
engagement**

Continued gaps noted in GSA engagement



**Small and
medium-sized
farms**



**People with
language needs**



**Drinking water
users**

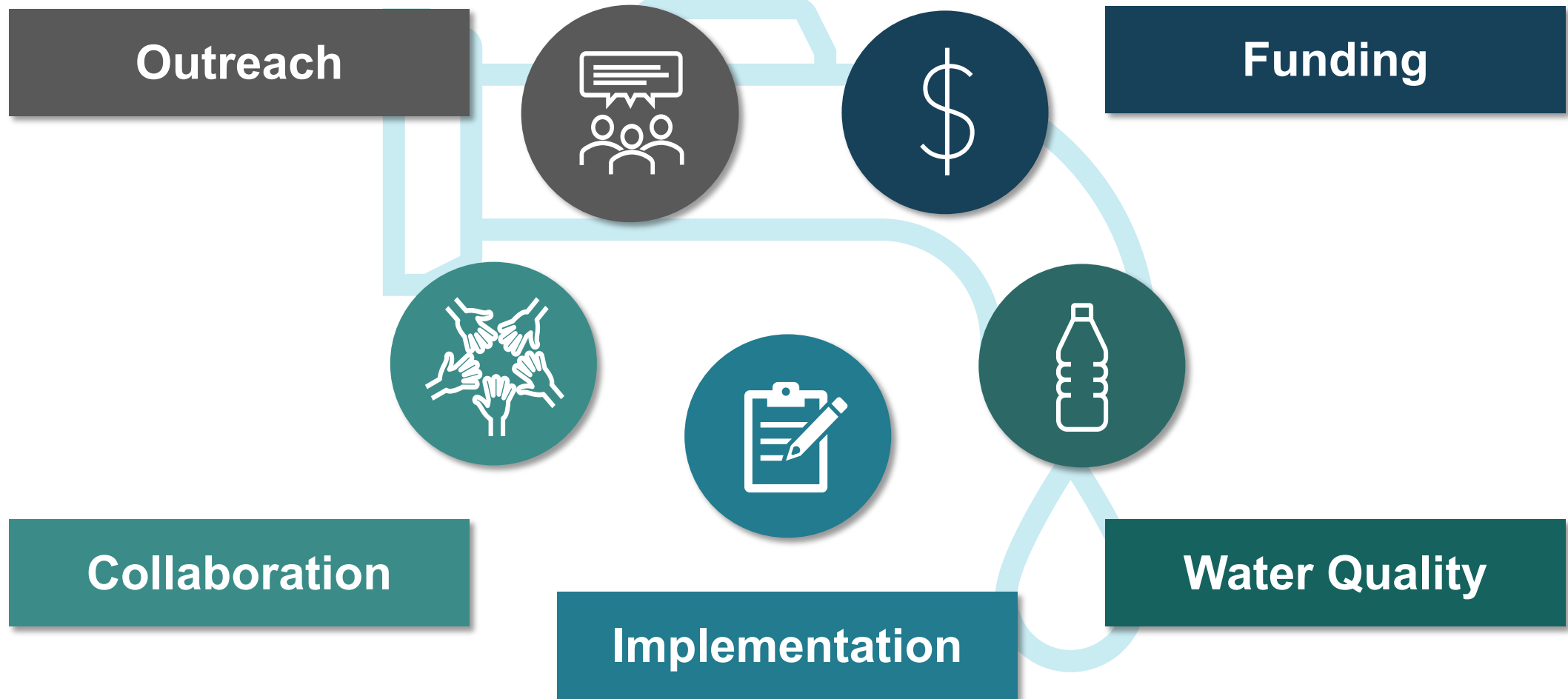


**Wetland
managers**



**California Native
American Tribes**

Well mitigation offers protection for drinking water while basins become sustainable



Well mitigation best practices focus on quick response and broad outreach

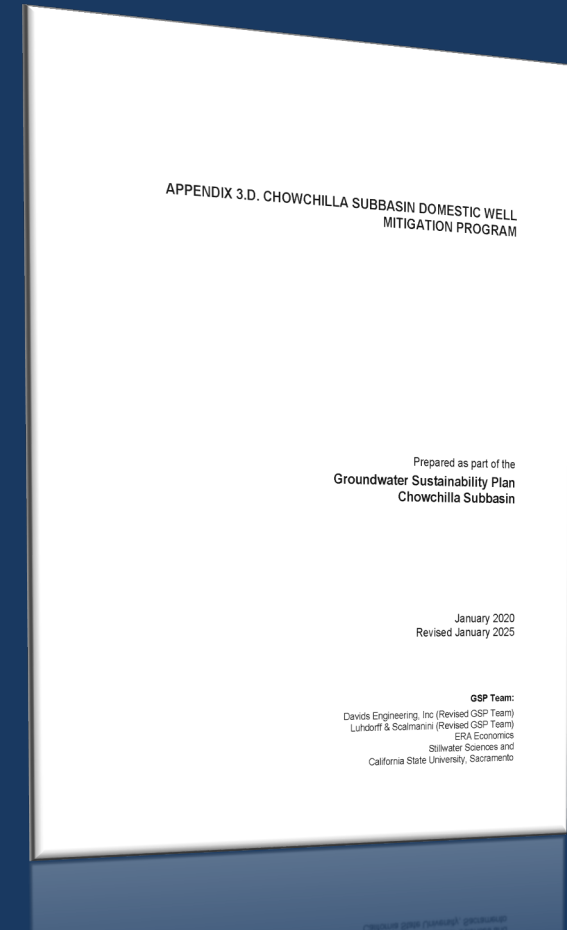


Emergency Response

Water Quality
Mitigation



Capping Mitigation
Costs



Application Review

Notification Process

What happens in PROBATION?



GSAAs have time to address issues
& continue to implement their plans



Extractors begin reporting



Board may require meters



Board recovers costs via fees



Board may, eventually, develop interim
plan



Extractors will use **GEARS** to file reports

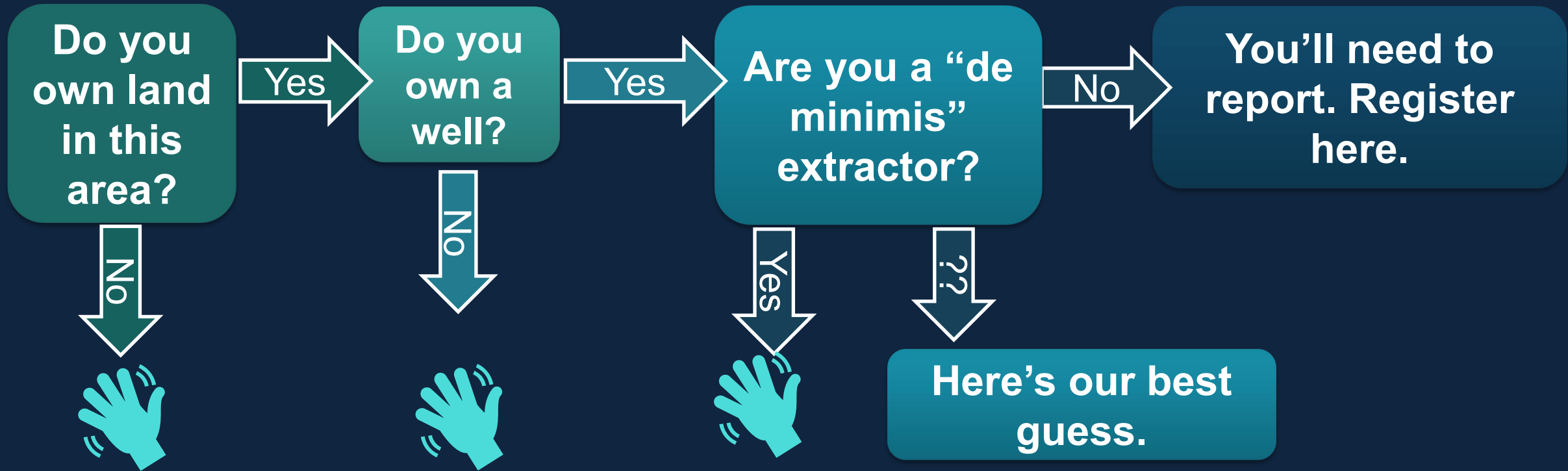
Quick Reporting and Registration

Required Reporting

- Well location, pumping capacity, & time pumping began
- Place & purpose of use
- Monthly extraction volumes

Information on extraction reports is available at https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sgma/reporting_and_fees.html.

GEARS Quick Reporting Wizard simplifies registration



New “de minimis calculator” helps rural households understand their extractions

Evapotranspiration
and precipitation

Parcel Number

Number of
households

Groundwater
versus other
sources

WELCOME TO GEARS

Para obtener información en español, nos puede llamar al (916) 322-6508 o enviar un mensaje a:
SGMA@waterboards.ca.gov. [Cambiar al español](#)



3. Fill in the information in the table below to help us better understand your groundwater use.

Parcel Number	Address	Number of Households served?	Percent of water use from groundwater.
12345689	123 Address	<input type="text" value="1"/>	<input type="text" value="100%"/>

<< Back

Next >>

New “de minimis calculator” helps rural households understand their extractions

Are you a “de minimis” extractor?



Here’s our best guess.



You’ll need to report.
Register here.

WELCOME TO GEARS

Para obtener información en español, nos puede llamar al (916) 322-6508 o enviar un mensaje a: SGMA@waterboards.ca.gov. [Cambiar al español](#)

According to your selection, you have one or more wells and are unsure if you are cumulatively extracting more than 2 acre-feet of groundwater per year. Answer the following questions, so we can estimate your cumulative use of groundwater per year. Please note that if you extract less than 2 acre-feet of water for non-domestic use, you are not a de minimis user and are required to report your extractions.



Based on the information you have provided; your estimated cumulative use is less than 2 acre-feet per year. Based on this estimation you may be a de minimis extractor and may not be required to report your annual groundwater extractions to GEARS. Select next to continue back to your selection. If you have questions, please contact the SGMA team at (916) 322-6508 or SGMA@waterboards.ca.gov.

Based on the information you have provided:

Parcel Number	Estimated Water extracted (acre-feet per year)
259280049	0.10
259280016	0.14

According to your estimates:

0.24

acre-feet per year

[Next >>](#)

GEARS Well Reporting

The screenshot displays the GEARS Well Reporting dashboard. On the left, a map shows a grid of land parcels with a green dot indicating a well location. The top navigation bar includes the CA.GOV logo, a home icon, and links for Help, Contact, About Us, Policy, and Terms. A search bar labeled 'Find address or place' is positioned above the map. The right sidebar, titled 'Gears user' with a 'Log out' link, contains a 'DETAILS' section for 'WELL 1'. This section is divided into three main areas: 'WELL LOCATION' with fields for Latitude (36.70857), Longitude (-119.81937), PLSS (0140S0200E17), Basin (SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY-5-022.08), County (Fresno), and PWSID; 'Status' with a dropdown menu set to 'Active'; 'Plot type' with a 'Map Plot' option; 'WELL IDENTIFICATION' with fields for 'Well name' (Well 1), 'USGS site number' (15 digit number), and 'CAGSEM Station ID' (18 digit alpha numeric value); and 'WELL CONSTRUCTION DETAILS' with a checkbox labeled 'Please check this box if you have a well'. A vertical toolbar on the right side of the sidebar contains icons for home, list, map, and other functions. The bottom of the map area is labeled 'Powered by Esri'.

CA.GOV

Home

Help Contact About Us Policy Terms

Find address or place

Gears user Log out

DETAILS

WELL 1

WELL LOCATION

Latitude: 36.70857 Longitude: -119.81937
PLSS: 0140S0200E17 Basin: SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY-5-022.08
County: Fresno GRP:
PWSID:

Status

Active

Plot type

Map Plot

WELL IDENTIFICATION

Well name

Well 1

USGS site number

15 digit number

CAGSEM Station ID

18 digit alpha numeric value

WELL CONSTRUCTION DETAILS

Please check this box if you have a well

Powered by Esri

Users use the
GEARS
Dashboard to:

Step 1: Locate wells

Step 2: Add well
information

Step 3: Define
parcels of use

GEARS

Extraction Reporting

Monthly Extraction Volumes for Water Year

Total water produced per month (acre-feet)

IMPORTANT: Water volume must be reported in acre-feet, NOT GALLONS
(Conversion help: 1 acre-foot = 325,851 gallons)

October 2021	November 2021	December 2021
<input type="text" value="5"/>	<input type="text" value="4"/>	<input type="text" value="1"/>
January 2022	February 2022	March 2022
<input type="text" value="1"/>	<input type="text" value="3"/>	<input type="text" value="4"/>
April 2022	May 2022	June 2022
<input type="text" value="2"/>	<input type="text" value="5"/>	<input type="text" value="5"/>
July 2022	August 2022	September 2022
<input type="text" value="11"/>	<input type="text" value="10"/>	<input type="text" value="12"/>


Comments

Cancel Save for Later Save and Continue

Fee calculation breakdown

Extraction Report Complete

Congratulations!



Water Year **2022** extraction report for **Well 1** is complete.

Well registration & Extraction fees: \$1,560
Late fee: \$390
Total fee: \$1,950
[How is this fee calculated?](#)

Do you have another well to report for water year 2022?

Report for another well Back to dashboard

GEARS Accomplishments



GEARS is tracking compliance for the 4,105 people who were mailed notices



Enhancement to address frequent issues encountered by the public



GSAs can now report on behalf of their extractors, with the extractor's permission

GEARS Future Projects



Quick-reporting tool
in Punjabi



GEARS tutorial videos
(multiple languages)



Make it easier to
report using
evapotranspiration
data



Enhanced compliance
tracking



GEARS user guides
(multiple languages)



Fee waiver guidance

FEES for pumpers who must report under probation



Notes:

- Fees are subject to change
- Special studies may incur additional costs
- Small domestic well owners likely exempt
- Exemptions for disadvantaged communities

FEES: Some exceptions exist, and more are under discussion

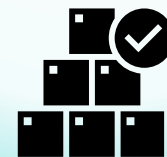
No reporting requirements or fees for small domestic well owners



Low-income reporters, schools, and disadvantaged communities may request **fee waivers**



Potential exemptions or modified fee structures are being explored (e.g., Tule Subbasin)



Fees may lag far behind staff's workload (example – Tule Subbasin)

DWR determines Tule
plans “Inadequate”

March
2023

Board designates Tule
Subbasin Probationary

September 17,
2024

Reports are due for Water Year
2025 (first for Tule Subbasin)

February 1,
2026

March 7,
2024

Board releases notice
for Probationary Hearing
and draft Staff Report

January 1,
2025

Pumpers start
recording their
extractions

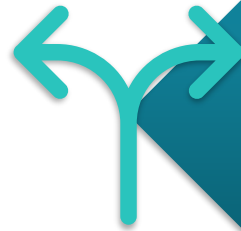
April 1,
2026

Reporting fees
are due from
pumpers

Emerging issues moving from review to interim plan implementation



Issues noted in GSP review



Exclusions from reporting or probation



Incorporation of GSPs or elements in interim plans



Project and management action implementation

Office of Sustainable Groundwater Management

SGMA@waterboards.ca.gov

www.waterboards.ca.gov/sgma

