

How do I Get Involved?



Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA)

1. Identify Your Groundwater Basin

The Department of Water Resources (DWR) has prioritized 127 of California's 515 groundwater basins as high- or medium-priority. The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) requires sustainable groundwater management of these 127 basins. If you are outside one of the 127 high- or medium-priority basins, SGMA does not apply to you.

You can locate your groundwater basin using the DWR basin prioritization map located at: www.water.ca.gov/groundwater/casgem/prioritymap.cfm.

Things to Remember

- Only groundwater basins prioritized as high or medium are required to develop groundwater sustainability plans.

2. Participate

High- and medium-priority basins must be managed by a Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA). GSAs are responsible for developing and implementing groundwater sustainability plans. Groundwater users and interested parties can participate in local GSAs.

To participate in a GSA, submit a written request to be placed on the GSA's interested persons list. To determine if a GSA has formed in your area visit DWR's GSA website at: www.water.ca.gov/groundwater/sgm/gsa.cfm. In areas where a GSA has not yet formed, you may want to contact local public agencies with existing land or water use authorities to learn if they are working towards forming a GSA.

Things to Remember

- GSAs must be formed for all high- and medium- priority basins by June 30, 2017.
- GSAs must maintain a list of interested persons for notification purposes.
- Before deciding to become a GSA, a local public agency must post a public notice and hold a public hearing.

3. Stay Involved

GSAs must consider the interests of all groundwater users in the development and implementation of the GSA's sustainability plan.

It is important that you stay involved with your GSA to ensure your needs as a groundwater user are considered in the development and implementation of your local sustainability plan.

Things to Remember

- High- and medium-priority basins in critical overdraft must be managed by groundwater sustainability plans by January 31, 2020.
- High- and medium-priority basins not in critical overdraft must be managed by groundwater sustainability plans by January 31, 2022.
- Sustainability plans must be updated every five years.
- Adoption or amendment of a sustainability plan requires a public hearing.
- High- and medium- priority groundwater basins must achieve sustainability by 2040/2042, twenty years after adoption of the groundwater sustainability plan.