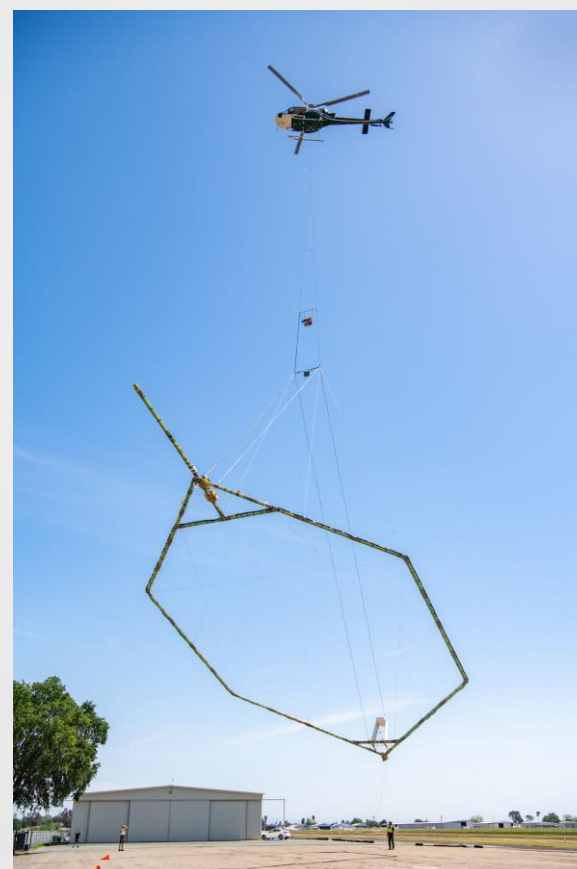


CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

Groundwater Awareness

Week 2024



03/14/2024

GSA Reporting/Progress

**Annual Reports, Periodic
Evaluations, and
Amendments
to GSPs**



Opening Remarks

Heather Shannon

DWR, Sustainable Groundwater Management Office



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Day 4 **Speakers**

Andrew Renshaw, *SGMO*

Shane Edmunds, *SGMO*



GSA Reporting/Progress

Andrew Renshaw & Shane Edmunds

DWR, Sustainable Groundwater Management Office



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Agenda

- Annual Reporting: Requirements and Expectations
- Q&A
- Periodic Evaluations and Plan Amendments: An Overview
- Q&A



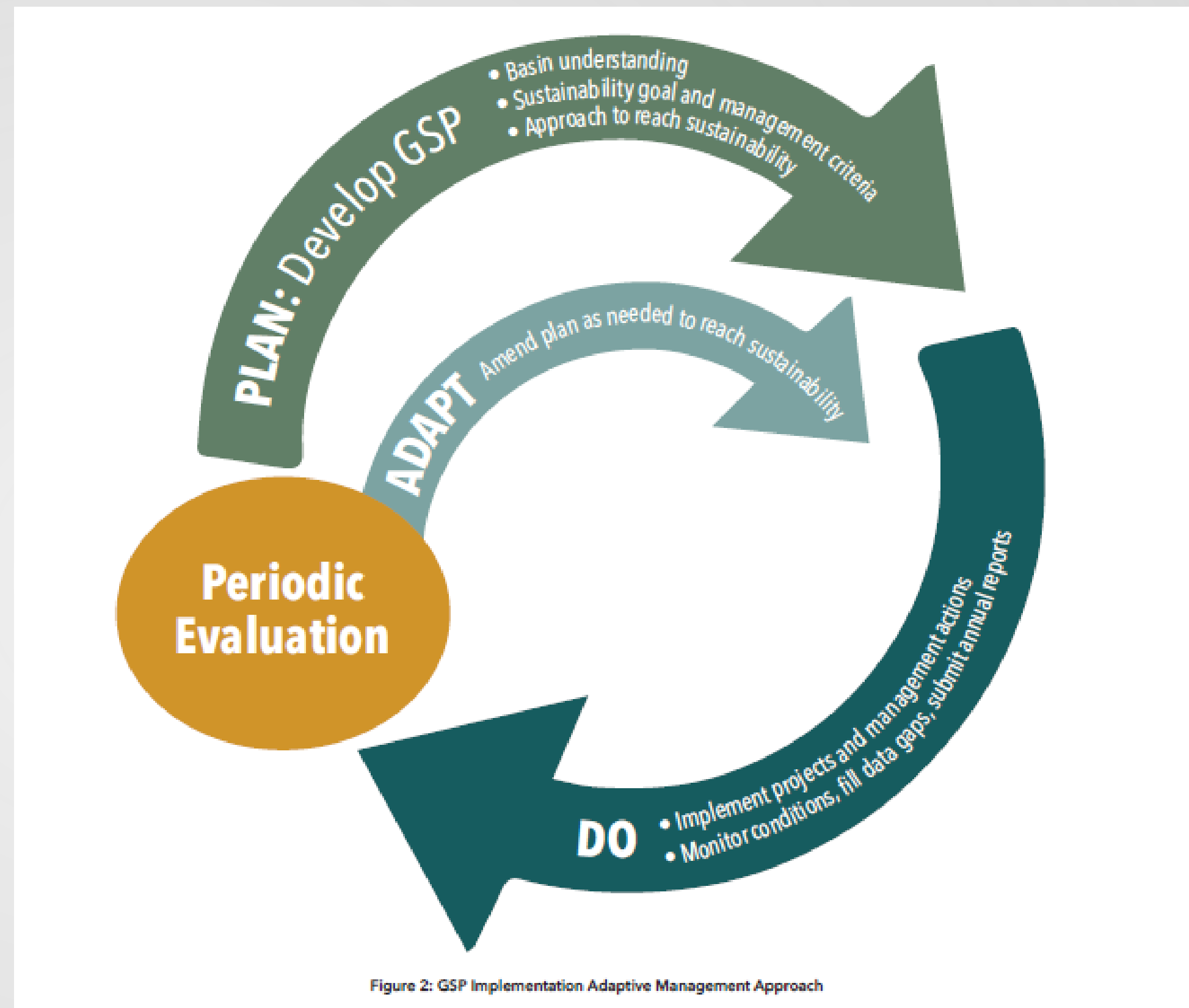
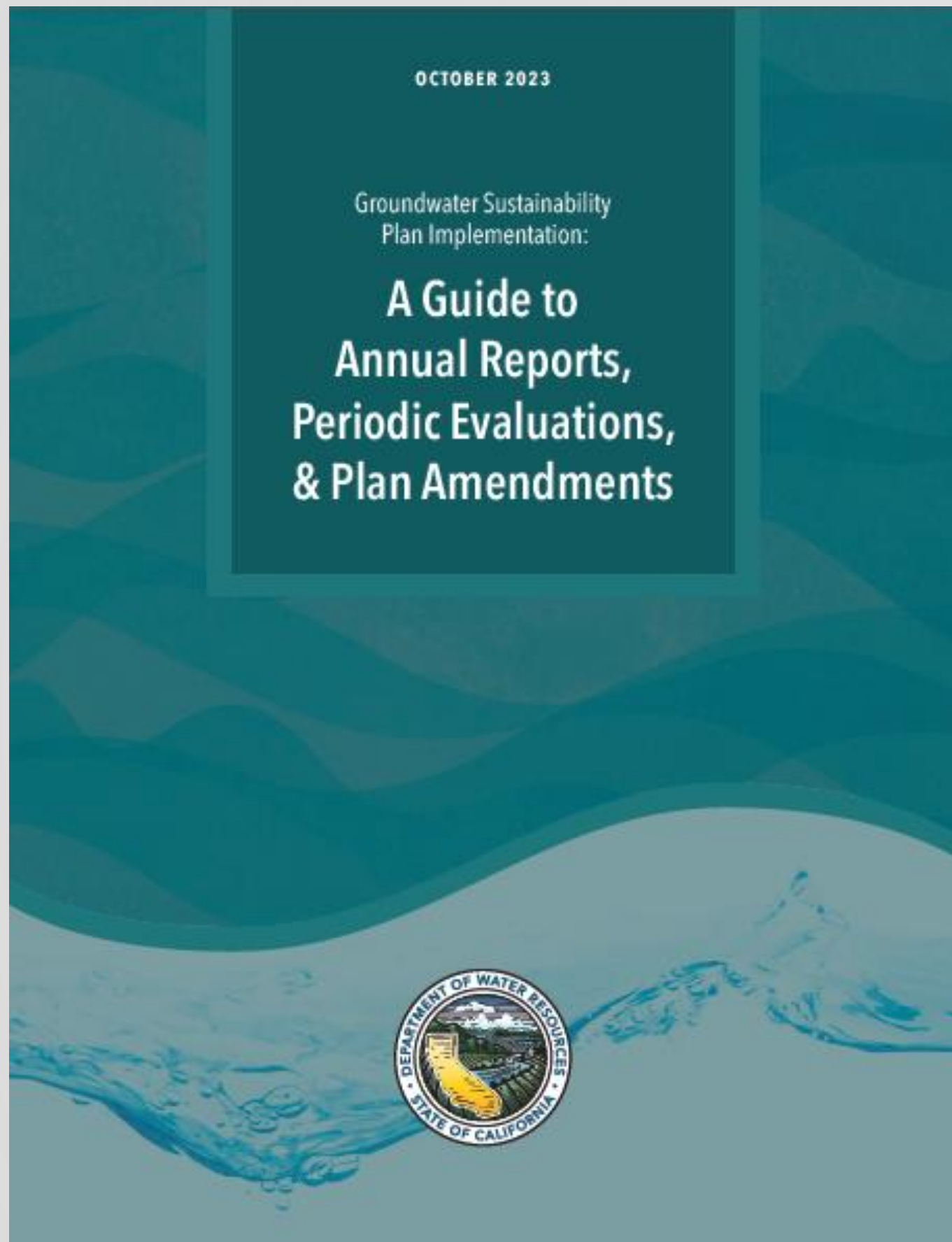


Figure 2: GSP Implementation Adaptive Management Approach



What is an Annual Report?

Annual Reports are intended to be a compilation and analysis of data in the basin from the previous water year and a summary of GSP implementation progress.

Annual Report: a report documenting current groundwater conditions, data gathering and monitoring efforts, activities to fill data gaps, water year comparisons, and GSP implementation progress (due by April 1 each year) - this is a progress tracking tool.

Status Update



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What needs to be included in Annual Reports?

The GSP Regulations require GSAs to provide maps, figures, and data tables that convey the groundwater conditions for the previous water year.

Figures to Include

- Location Map
- Seasonal High/Low Groundwater Level Contour
Maps for each Principal Aquifer
- Hydrographs – for at least representative monitoring sites
- Change in storage maps for each Principal Aquifer
- Change in storage graph(s) depicting water year type, groundwater use, change in storage and cumulative change in storage

Tables to Include

- Groundwater Extraction by Water Use Sector
- Groundwater Extraction Volume Measurement
Methods and Accuracy
- Surface Water Supply by Source Type
- Total Water Use by Source Type
- Total Water Use by Water Use Sector



OCTOBER 2023

Groundwater Sustainability
Plan Implementation:

A Guide to Annual Reports, Periodic Evaluations, & Plan Amendments



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| Groundwater Extraction Sector | Water Use (Acre-feet) |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Urban | |
| Industrial | |
| Agricultural | |
| Managed Wetland | |
| Managed Recharge | |
| Native Vegetation | |
| Other | |
| TOTAL | |

Table 1. Example Groundwater Extraction by Sector Table

| Groundwater Extraction Volume (acre-feet) | Measurement Type | Method Description | Accuracy | Accuracy Description |
|---|------------------|--------------------|----------|----------------------|
| | | | | |

Table 2. Example Groundwater Extraction Volume Measurement Methods and Accuracy Table

A Groundwater Extraction



Total Groundwater Extractions (AF)

43,800

Water Use Sectors

URBAN (AF)

300

INDUSTRIAL (AF)

0

AGRICULTURAL (AF)

43,500

MANAGED WETLANDS (AF)

0

MANAGED RECHARGE (AF)

0

NATIVE VEGETATION (AF)

0

OTHER (AF)

0

OTHER DESCRIPTION



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What needs to be included in Annual Reports?

The GSP Regulations also require GSAs to provide “**detailed descriptions**” of the maps, figures, and data tables that convey the groundwater conditions for the previous water year.

What is considered a *detailed* description for the maps, figures, and data?

The Department expects the “detailed description” to primarily focus on:

- The methods used to collect and/or analyze the data
- Brief interpretations of the data collected over the water year including a discussion of water year type
- Discussion of trends or changes observed when comparing data to previous water years



What needs to be included in Annual Reports?

The GSP Regulations also require GSAs to provide a description of **progress towards implementing the Plan**, including achieving interim milestones, and implementation of projects or management actions since the previous annual report. The Department expects the description of progress towards implementing the Plan to primarily focus on:

- Groundwater conditions in relation to Sustainable Management Criteria for each applicable sustainability indicator
 - How do groundwater conditions compare to the previous water years?
 - Are groundwater condition trends on track to reach interim milestones?
 - Were there any minimum threshold exceedances? If so, evaluate why those conditions have occurred.
- Projects and management actions implemented during the water year or planned to be implemented
 - Did the GSA initiate or continue to implement any projects or management actions?
 - If projects / management actions were planned, but not implemented, why were they not implemented?
 - Describe any planned projects or management actions for next water year.



Departments Review of Annual Reports

The Department will review Annual Reports in a two-step process.

1. Completeness Review

Were all the required maps, figures, and data submitted?

If no, Staff may reach out to the Agency to acquire missing items.

2. Progress Toward Sustainability

Is the basin on track to achieve the sustainability goal for the basin?

If no, Staff may reach out to the Agency and request more information.

The Department will post a letter response to each annual report submittal via the SGMA Portal. The letter will state the agency has met the requirements or request additional information.



The Department must “assess progress in achieving the sustainability goal within the basin.”



The Department must “assess progress in achieving the sustainability goal within the basin.”

- This includes during annual report review.

Staff may consider the following items...

- Are impacts to beneficial uses and users occurring? Impacts to adjacent basins?
- Have public comments been submitted to the agency or Department? Why?
- How is the agency addressing Recommended Corrective Actions?
- Is the basin in overdraft? Is the volume increasing/decreasing under similar conditions?
- Other basin specific items



Q&A Session 1



Periodic Evaluations

Is a GSP Update, Five-Year Update, Periodic Update, and GSP Assessment the same as a Periodic Evaluation?

No, the Periodic Evaluation is in fact an evaluation of *implementation* not an update to the GSP itself.

Periodic Evaluation: an evaluation and written assessment of an approved GSP to occur at least every five years and when a Plan is amended (due no later than five years after initial GSP submittal) – this is an implementation evaluation tool.

Performance Assessment



What is required in a Periodic Evaluation?

The Periodic Evaluation is a GSA's written assessment of its GSP implementation. The assessment is meant to evaluate whether their groundwater sustainability program is meeting the basin's sustainability goal and continues to meet the requirements of SGMA and the GSP Regulations.

- **New Information Collected:**
 - Description of any new information, including significant new data, acquired during the evaluation cycle
- **Groundwater Conditions Relative to Sustainable Management Criteria:**
 - Are conditions on track to meet the interim milestones.
 - Have there been minimum threshold exceedances?
- **Status of Projects and Management Actions:**
 - Summarize the GSA implementation activities related to projects and management actions.
 - How have these GSA activities helped the agency achieve the sustainability goal for the basin?
- **Basin Setting Based on New Information or Changes in Water Use:**
 - Explain the major cause of any significant new changes in the understanding of the basin setting, such as changes attributed to water use and supply, climate variations, successes and failures of projects and management actions, or significant new information and data that causes changes in model assumptions and results.



What is required in a Periodic Evaluation?

- **Monitoring Networks:**
 - Provide an overall summary of changes to monitoring networks since the last GSP or Periodic Evaluation.
 - Describe whether identified monitoring network data gaps have been filled. If the previously identified data gaps were not filled, explain why.
 - Discuss any new data gaps that have been identified since the previous GSP.
- **GSA Authorities and Enforcement Actions:**
 - Describe any new authorities the basin's GSAs have gained, established, or exercised since GSP submittal
 - Summarize what has been implemented to advance groundwater sustainability.
 - Authorities could pertain to relevant actions related to regulations and ordinances applicable to the Plan.
- **Outreach, Engagement, and Coordination with Other Agencies:**
 - GSAs need to continue outreach, engagement, and communication efforts during implementation.
 - GSAs should consider the various audiences they need to communicate and interact with during GSP implementation activities.
- **Summary of Proposed or Completed Revision to Plan Elements:**
 - Summarize the key take-aways from the Periodic Evaluation
 - Brief discussion of how the GSAs intend to continue moving the basin towards their sustainability goal



Other Considerations.

The Periodic Evaluation and the Department's Periodic Review should also consider the following items, outside of what is directly required in the GSP Regulations as it relates to the ten GSP evaluation criteria.¹

- Are impacts to beneficial uses and users occurring? Impacts to adjacent basins?
- Have public comments been submitted to the agency or Department? Why?
- How is the agency addressing Recommended Corrective Actions?
- Is the basin in overdraft? Is the volume increasing/decreasing under similar conditions?

1: GSP Regulations § 355.4



Plan Amendments

Water Code § 10728.4.

A groundwater sustainability agency may adopt or amend a groundwater sustainability plan after a public hearing

§ 355.10. Plan Amendments

(a) Any amendment to a Plan shall be evaluated by the Department for consistency with the requirements of the Act and of this Subchapter.

(b) An Agency may amend a Plan at any time, and submit the amended Plan to the Department for evaluation pursuant to the requirements of this Subchapter.

- Plan Amendments are not required per the GSP Regulations or SGMA and are at the discretion of the GSAs and their governing boards.
- Outreach and engagement, including notification to the list of interested persons.
- Proper public notice (90 days) and address comments and requests for consultation.
- Adoption by a governing board (proof of adoption needs to be submitted).



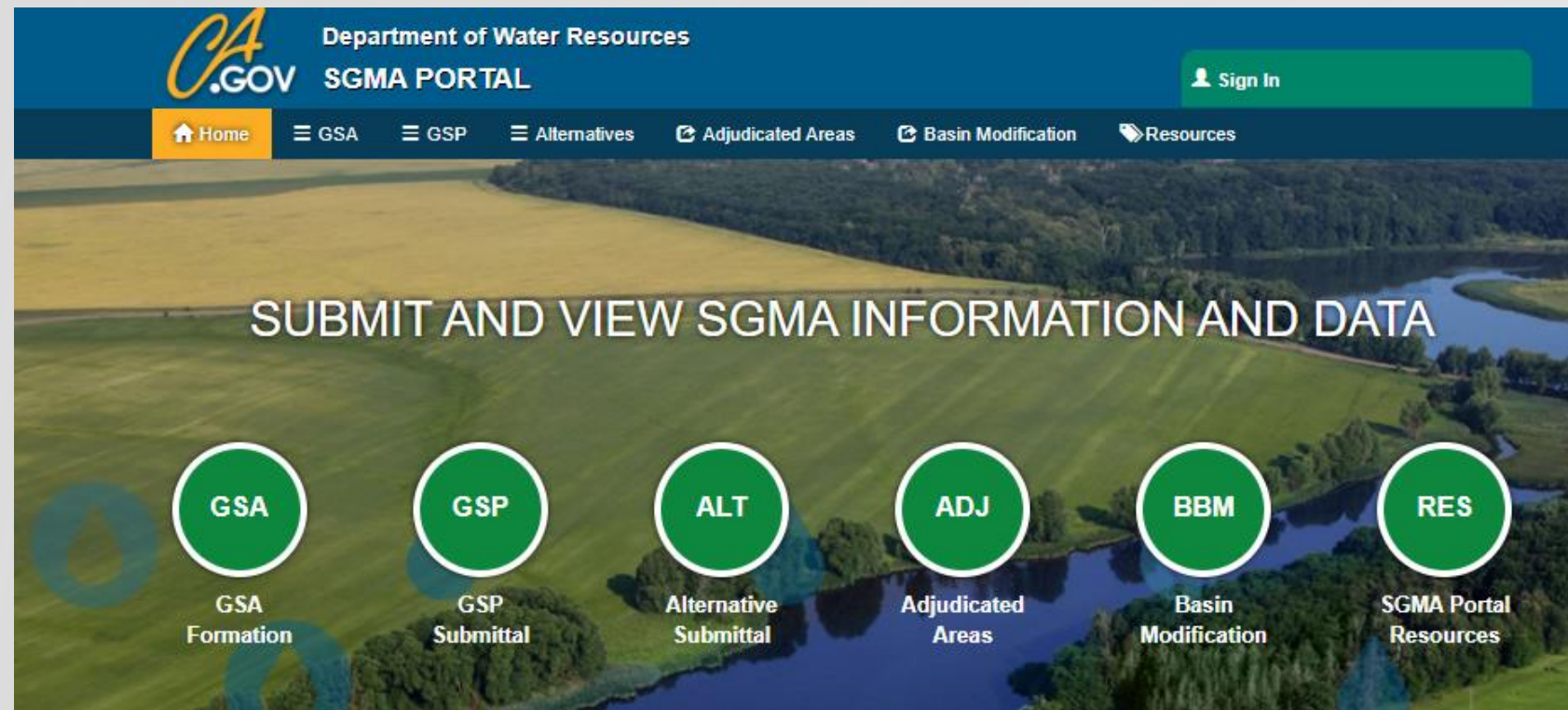
Plan Amendments

The Department recommends a GSA thoroughly evaluate and discuss the potential need for an amendment with their legal counsel and stakeholders. Elements of the GSP that may warrant a Plan Amendment if significant or material changes were made:

- Changes made to the overall management of the basin, including sustainable management criteria, sustainability goal, addition or removal of management areas, or wholesale modifications to the representative monitoring sites network.
- Revisions made to projects and management actions, including addition or removal of projects or management actions that could affect the projected water budget, sustainable yield, or achievement of measurable objectives, or impact the ability to mitigate overdraft.
- Modifications made to the administrative management of the basin, including addition or removal of GSAs, or the addition or removal of a GSP from a basin, etc.

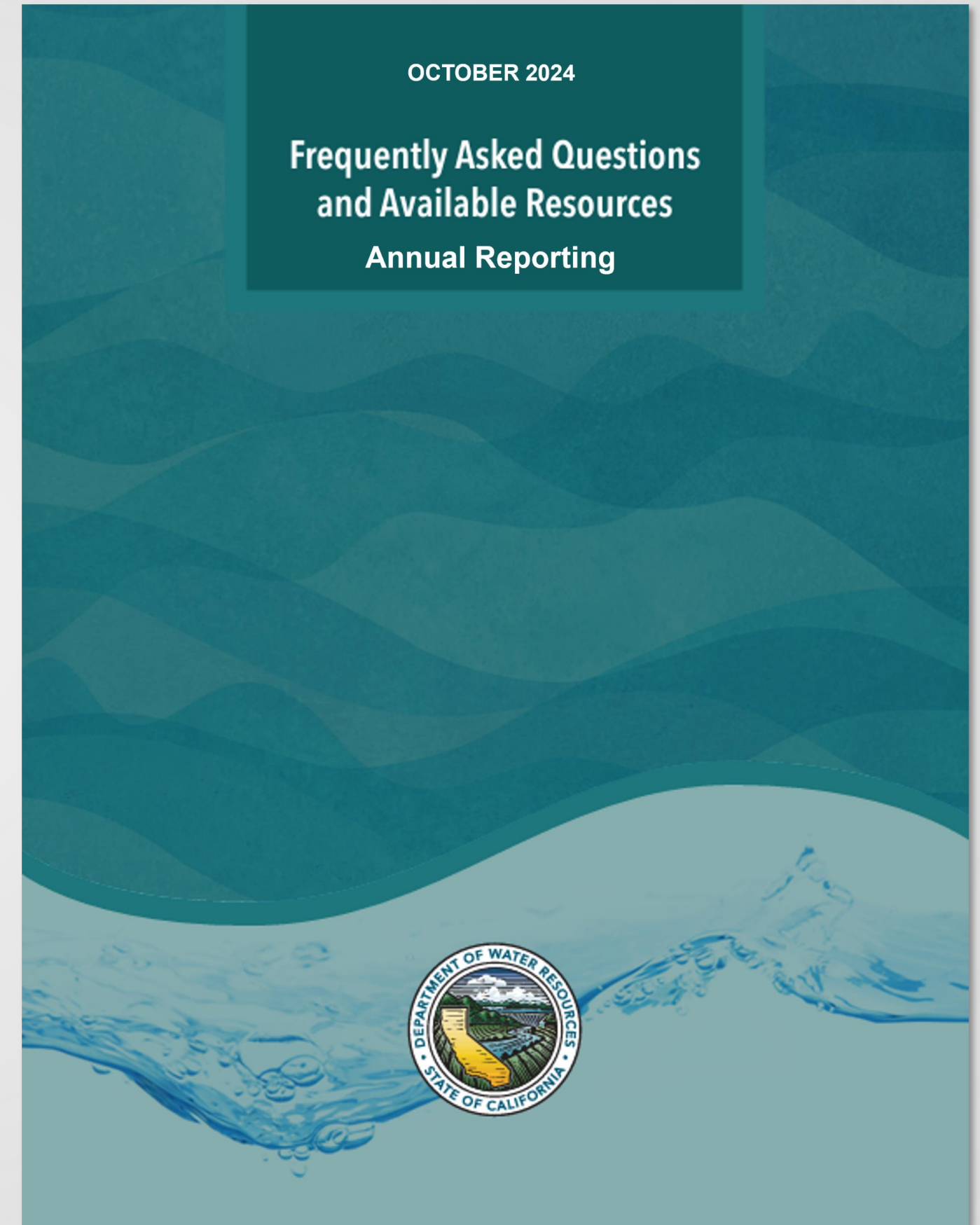


Near Future Resources for Reporting



Guidance and more information on Portal Enhancements soon. Specifically,

- Projects and Management Actions Module
- Data Export Features – Including Hydrographs
- Periodic Evaluation submittal process



Thank you.

Q&A Session 2

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**THANK
YOU**