**Sustainable Groundwater Management Act Turns 10!**

**Panelist Links and Bios**

**September 25, 2025**

**Secretary Speaker Series:** [**https://resources.ca.gov/About-Us/Secretary-Speaker-Series**](https://resources.ca.gov/About-Us/Secretary-Speaker-Series)

**Wade Crowfoot, Secretary, California Natural Resources Agency**

<https://resources.ca.gov/About-Us/Who-We-Are/Secretary-for-Natural-Resources>

Celebrate Latino Heritage Month with Us! <https://resources.ca.gov/latinoheritagemonth>

Governor Jerry Brown: <https://www.jerrybrown.org/>

**Sustainable Groundwater Management Act: Background and Development**

In 2014, Governor Jerry Brown signed a three-bill legislative package, composed of [AB 1739 (Dickinson)](http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201320140AB1739), [SB 1168 (Pavley)](http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201320140SB1168), and [SB 1319 (Pavley)](http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201320140SB1319), collectively known as the [Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA)](http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displayexpandedbranch.xhtml?tocCode=WAT&division=6.&title=&part=2.74.&chapter=&article). SGMA is the first legislative act that California passed in order to achieve sustainable groundwater management.

The Office of Administrative Law approved the final [regulation](https://govt.westlaw.com/calregs/Browse/Home/California/CaliforniaCodeofRegulations?guid=IC706E2125B6E11EC9451000D3A7C4BC3&originationContext=documenttoc&transitionType=Default&contextData=%28sc.Default%29) on June 29, 2017.

SGMA established a new framework for how groundwater would be managed locally to achieve long-term sustainability.

SGMA requires existing local agencies to form [groundwater sustainability agencies](https://water.ca.gov/Programs/Groundwater-Management/SGMA-Groundwater-Management/Groundwater-Sustainable-Agencies) (GSAs) in [high- and medium-priority basins](https://water.ca.gov/Programs/Groundwater-Management/Basin-Prioritization) and to develop and implement [groundwater sustainability plans](https://water.ca.gov/Programs/Groundwater-Management/SGMA-Groundwater-Management/Groundwater-Sustainability-Plans) (GSPs). GSAs are responsible for achieving long-term sustainable management of their groundwater basins and must achieve sustainable groundwater management within 20 years of implementing their GSPs.

These groundwater sustainability plans outline how groundwater will be sustainably used and managed without causing six undesirable results in the basins: significant and unreasonable declines in groundwater levels, reductions in groundwater storage, intrusion of seawater, degradation of water quality, subsidence of land, and depletions of interconnected surface waters. These are often referred to as the sustainability indicators. These GSPs will address overuse and excessive groundwater pumping, causing overdraft in the basins, to achieve balanced levels of groundwater to reach long-term sustainability. For those groundwater basins experiencing the most severe overdraft, known as the [critically over-drafted basins](https://water.ca.gov/-/media/DWR-Website/Web-Pages/Programs/Groundwater-Management/Basin-Prioritization/Files/CODBasins_websitemapPAO_a_20y.pdf), basins must achieve groundwater sustainability by 2040. For the remaining high- and medium-priority basins, 2042 is the sustainability deadline. See the [Groundwater Legislature Timeline](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/sgma/docs/sgma/timeline.pdf) for more details.

In his signing statement, Governor Jerry Brown emphasized that "groundwater management in California is best accomplished locally."

**Agencies Implementing SGMA**

Local agencies are responsible for the sustainable management of their groundwater basins; however, state agencies are responsible for ensuring local groundwater management achieves SGMA's goals. The California Department of Water Resources (DWR), which is a state department in the California Natural Resources Agency and the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board), which is an independent board within the California Environmental Protection Agency are the two lead state agencies implementing SGMA.

**Paul Gosselin, Deputy Director for Sustainable Water Management, California Department of Water Resources**

<https://water.ca.gov/>

<https://water.ca.gov/About/Executive-Team>

Bio:

**Paul Gosselin** was appointed Deputy Director for Sustainable Water Management (formerly Statewide Groundwater Management) on July 9, 2021. In this capacity, Gosselin oversees the Sustainable Groundwater Management Office (SGMO) and the Division of Regional Assistance (DRA). SGMO is responsible for the implementation of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) and other statewide groundwater management activities. DRA supports the management of California’s water resource through various assistance offerings. It includes two branches in Sacramento and four regional offices in Red Bluff, West Sacramento, Fresno, and Glendale. Gosselin has extensive experience in local groundwater management, and environmental regulations and leadership.

DWR Groundwater Management Webpage (SGMA Guidance and information) – [https://water.ca.gov/Programs/Groundwater-Management](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwater.ca.gov%2FPrograms%2FGroundwater-Management&data=05%7C02%7CGita.Chandra%40resources.ca.gov%7Cd5f315ad41004fa7bbe508dcdce71097%7Cb71d56524b834257afcd7fd177884564%7C0%7C0%7C638628132177012102%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=YBGdZPgir1g2xDRaQZSyVFGIcxF2U4f%2FDAlSO7UekJo%3D&reserved=0)

California Groundwater Live (Near real-time groundwater information) – [https://sgma.water.ca.gov/CalGWLive/](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fsgma.water.ca.gov%2FCalGWLive%2F&data=05%7C02%7CGita.Chandra%40resources.ca.gov%7Cd5f315ad41004fa7bbe508dcdce71097%7Cb71d56524b834257afcd7fd177884564%7C0%7C0%7C638628132176988811%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=KNn%2FPmFSTHU3wYLVmgPwaKZ8EKSdd8SEd9ZEHwpPmeQ%3D&reserved=0)

SGMA Portal (access to GSA and GSP information and content) – [https://sgma.water.ca.gov/portal/](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fsgma.water.ca.gov%2Fportal%2F&data=05%7C02%7CGita.Chandra%40resources.ca.gov%7Cd5f315ad41004fa7bbe508dcdce71097%7Cb71d56524b834257afcd7fd177884564%7C0%7C0%7C638628132177026605%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=914fX7NgruLquqLa6BSn00sbERw370XpE4iwwh3yb40%3D&reserved=0)

SGMA Data Viewer (Detailed data and information on Groundwater planning) – [https://sgma.water.ca.gov/webgis/?appid=SGMADataViewer](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fsgma.water.ca.gov%2Fwebgis%2F%3Fappid%3DSGMADataViewer&data=05%7C02%7CGita.Chandra%40resources.ca.gov%7Cd5f315ad41004fa7bbe508dcdce71097%7Cb71d56524b834257afcd7fd177884564%7C0%7C0%7C638628132177040678%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=yG6Zk%2BZYil67Ch%2BX8fE%2F38YqdyIE9GBSPky8jLVX43Q%3D&reserved=0)

State Water Resources Control Board SGMA webpage (State intervention actions) - [https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sgma/](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.waterboards.ca.gov%2Fsgma%2F&data=05%7C02%7CGita.Chandra%40resources.ca.gov%7Cd5f315ad41004fa7bbe508dcdce71097%7Cb71d56524b834257afcd7fd177884564%7C0%7C0%7C638628132177054224%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=FglfAYby2M9VLphlANwRn7K6fiXFFFKGt9QpYvR5kpY%3D&reserved=0)

**Joaquin Esquivel, Chair, State Water Resources Control Board**

<https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/about_us/board_members/>

<https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/>

E. Joaquin Esquivel was appointed to the State Water Resources Control Board by Governor Jerry Brown in March 2017, designated by Governor Gavin Newsom as Chair in February 2019, and reappointed to the board by Governor Newsom in 2021. Previously, he served as Assistant Secretary for federal water policy at the California Natural Resources Agency in the Governor's Washington, D.C. office, where he facilitated the development of policy priorities between the agency, the Governor's Office, the California Congressional delegation, and federal stakeholder agencies.

For more than eight years prior to that, Joaquin worked for U.S. Senator Barbara Boxer of California, most recently as her legislative assistant covering the agriculture, Native American, water, oceans, and nutrition portfolios, in addition to being the director of Information and Technology.

He was born and raised in California's Coachella Valley. He holds a BA from the University of California, Santa Barbara in English.

Sustainable Groundwater Management Act:

<https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sgma/>

**Eddie Ocampo, Director of Community Sustainability, Self-Help Enterprises**

<https://www.selfhelpenterprises.org/about-us/our-staff-board/meet-our-executive-team/>

<https://www.selfhelpenterprises.org/>

San Joaquin Valley Water Collaborative Action Program Participant

<https://www.sjvwcap.org/>

<https://www.sjvwcap.org/participants/>

**Bio:**

Eddie Ocampo is the Program Director of the Community Sustainability Department, at Self-Enterprises, with expertise in organizing and collaborating with rural communities and schools to identify water and wastewater systems’ needs and solutions, community income survey development and implementation, septic system, and groundwater survey implementation, housing survey implementation, preparation of loan and grant applications for project funding, project grant, and loan administration, public district formation facilitation, consultant recruitment and compensation negotiation, contract preparation, and training of community boards and staff.

At SHE, his primary duties include overseeing the facilitation and improvement of community participation in multi-benefit land repurposing efforts, regional water planning, sustainable groundwater management, and policy development.  Other duties include staff management, department and programs’ and projects’ development, and implementation; oversight of the organization’s community education, engagement, outreach, planning, capacity building, and training programs; oversight of the organization’s Drinking Water for Schools program, which improves access to safe water in rural and underrepresented communities; and oversight of the Sustainable Energy Solutions program, which connects disadvantaged communities with resources that facilitate access to affordable energy and clean transportation infrastructure.  Eddie was hired by Self-Help Enterprises’ Community Development Department in 2012; he has also served in the capacity of an Assistant Program Director, Community Development Manager, and Community Development Specialist. Other relevant qualifications and experience include data analysis, collection, and reporting.  His educational credentials include a Master of Public Administration, a Master of Science in Industrial and Organizational Psychology, and a Doctorate in Human and Social Sciences.

**Kiti Campbell, Westlands Water District, Supervisor of Resources**

[**https://wwd.ca.gov/**](https://wwd.ca.gov/)

Bio: Katarina Buelna Campbell is a California Licensed Professional Engineer with a degree in civil engineering, currently employed at Westlands Water District since 2010, the largest agricultural water district in the nation. Katarina’s experience includes water supply enhancement projects, groundwater and the California’s power market.

Since 2015, she has led Westlands’ Sustainable Groundwater Management Act’s (SGMA) regulatory compliance activities. Through her leadership, she has successfully modified the subbasin’s boundary, formed a groundwater sustainability agency, developed a groundwater model, develop an approved Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) and hosted multiple outreach events. She is currently leading Westlands’ GSP implementation efforts, and most notably developed recharge programs that resulted in nearly 400,000 acre feet of groundwater recharge to date.

Katarina’s background includes several capital improvement projects designed to increase water supply reliability and enhance groundwater conditions. Projects include the first agricultural aquifer storage and recovery well in California, groundwater replenishment projects, and construction of new pipelines to facilitate water transfers. Her leadership has resulted in securing more $35M in grants to enhance water supply and support SGMA implementation activities. Katarina is recognized for her ability to problem-solve by developing innovative solutions, resulting in project cost savings.

<https://wwd.ca.gov/water-management/groundwater-management-program/>

<https://wwd.ca.gov/water-management/groundwater-management-program/groundwater-management-program-application/>

**Laura Gallegos, Senior Public Affairs Specialist, Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency**

<https://www.yourscvwater.com/>

Bio: Laura Gallegos is an award-winning communications professional with nearly a decade of experience in the water sector. As a Senior Public Affairs Specialist at SCV Water she specializes in strategic communication, community engagement, and policy advocacy, Laura has a proven track record of driving positive change in the public sector.

Dedicated to impactful community outreach and relationship building, Laura excels in navigating complex media landscapes and influencing strategic outcomes. Her expertise lies in translating technical knowledge into accessible language, mobilizing support for key initiatives, and delivering engaging talks that inspire action.

Water Education Foundation: <https://www.watereducation.org/>

Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) - Water Education Foundation

<https://www.watereducation.org/aquapedia-background/sustainable-groundwater-management-act-sgma>

2024 Water Leaders Cohort Examines Ways to Help Groundwater Basins Become Sustainable: <https://www.watereducation.org/announcement/2024-water-leaders-cohort-examines-ways-help-groundwater-basins-become-sustainable>

Making Groundwater Sustainability a Reality in California: <https://www.watereducation.org/western-water/making-groundwater-sustainability-reality-california>