



## Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) Update

### **Background**

Governor Brown signed a package of legislation known as the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) in September 2014, which created a framework for local agencies to develop Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs) tailored to their regional needs.

To date, SGMA implementation has included local agencies forming groundwater sustainability agencies (GSAs), two rounds of basin boundary modifications and basin prioritizations, and plan alternative reviews. These activities set the stage for GSP development by GSAs. SGMA requires GSAs to prepare GSPs for severely over-drafted basins by January 31, 2020. GSPs for other high and medium priority basins are due January 31, 2022. DWR will review and approve or deny these plans, which must result in sustainable management of groundwater basins within 20 years.

To implement SGMA, DWR, led by the Sustainable Groundwater Management Office, maintains two separate roles: regulatory and assistance. Regulatory functions include regulation development, developing systems to establish GSAs, basin boundary modification processes, basin prioritization processes, and alternative and GSP review processes. Assistance functions to GSAs include department points of contact, access to facilitation services, statewide data sets, planning tools, guidance, and financial assistance.

Taryn Ravazzini, DWR Deputy Director for Statewide Groundwater Management, will update the Commission on DWR's recent activities and milestones related to SGMA. This is the first of a two-part briefing—the second briefing will occur in January, when the SGMA staff will update the Commission on how DWR will review GSPs beginning in 2020.

This is an informational item.

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