



California Water Commission
**Panel Discussion on Markets and
Groundwater Trading**

June 16, 2021

Create flexibility for groundwater sustainability agencies to trade water within basins by enabling and incentivizing transactional approaches, including groundwater markets, with rules that safeguard natural resources, small- and medium size farms, and water supply and quality for disadvantaged communities.

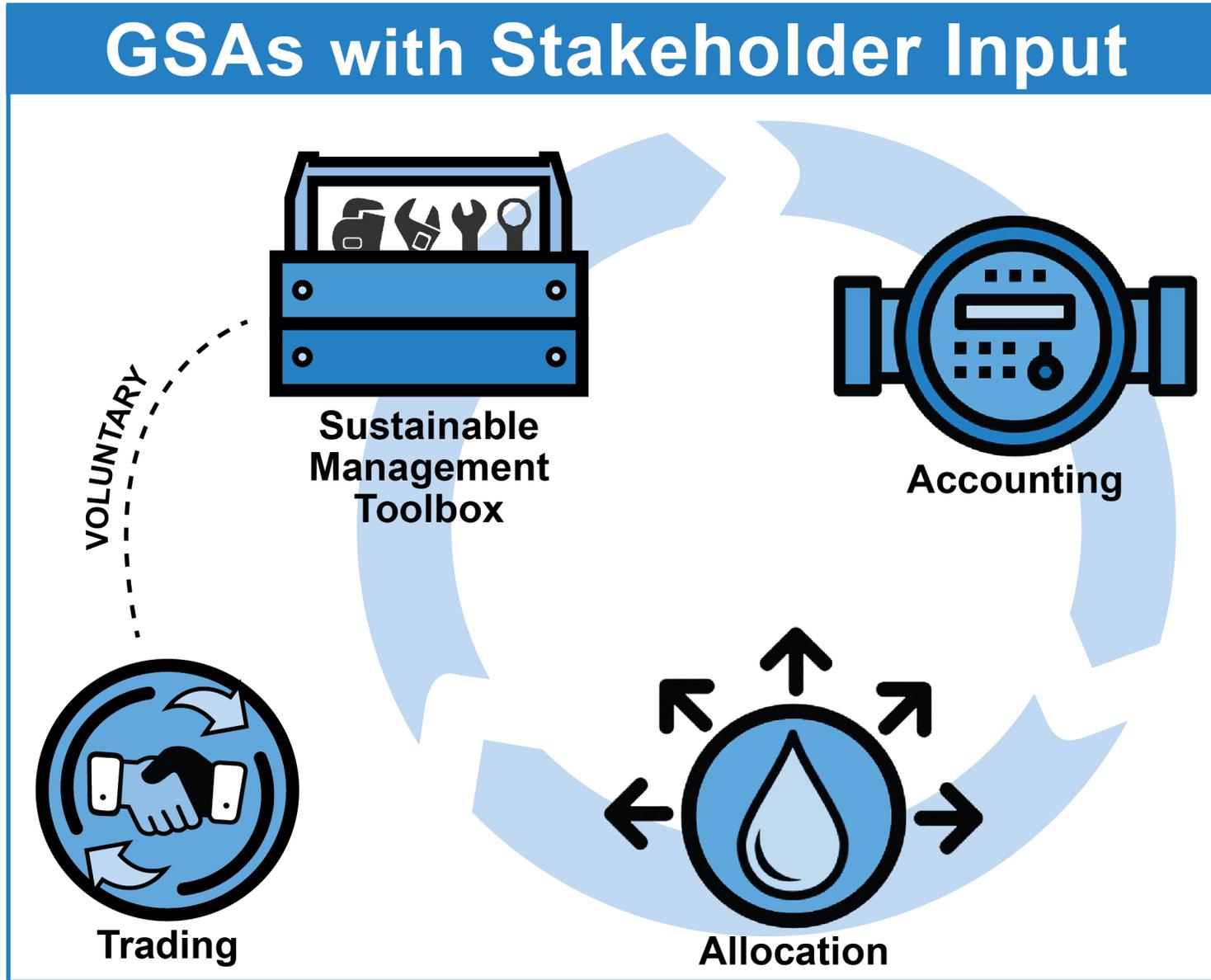
Action 3.6

Supporting Well-Managed Groundwater Trading

GSA with Stakeholder Input

Water Commission action:

Public discussions on needed safeguards for well-managed water trading programs in support of Water Resilience Portfolio Action 3.6



State Agency activity:

- SGMA Data Viewer
Supporting data for water budgets
- Water Budget Handbook
Guidance for consistent water budgets and data collection
- Collaboratively developing a freely available, open source groundwater accounting and budgeting platform
 - ✓ NGO administered
 - ✓ Voluntary use
 - ✓ Compatible with state reporting portals

Today's Panelists

- **Dr. Newsha Ajami**, Director of Urban Water Policy and Senior Research Scholar at the Stanford Woods Institute for the Environment
- **Steven Springhorn**, Acting Deputy Director of Statewide Groundwater Management at the Department of Water Resources
- **Dr. Christina Babbitt**, Senior Manager of the California Groundwater Program at Environmental Defense Fund
- **Aaron Fukuda**, interim General Manager for the Mid-Kaweah Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Agency
- **Eddie Ocampo**, Director of Community Sustainability at Self-Help Enterprises



Today's Topics

- **Markets** - Why markets are being considered in the context of groundwater, what the opportunities and limitations of markets are, what problem(s) they seek to solve, and how they can be designed to change behavior.
- **SGMA Implementation** - How groundwater trading nests within sustainable groundwater management and SGMA, how GSPs link to groundwater trading, and how trading can help GSAs implement GSPs.
- **Design** - What the main considerations for the development of a groundwater trading program are, what well-designed trading is, and what roles accounting and allocation play.
- **Safeguards** - What the potential benefits to/impacts on ecosystems, communities, smaller farms are, and how to avoid impacts.



Schedule

- **June** – Host first expert panel.
- **August** – Present results of small-group discussions to Commission; host second expert panel.
- **September** – Host third (final) expert panel.
- **October** – Present results of workshops and roadshow.
- **November** – Present preliminary conclusions.
- **December** – Present final draft conclusions.

