

Let your voice be heard at one of two California Water Commission

Groundwater Trading Workshops

- Learn more about well-managed groundwater trading
- Join the discussion on how to make trading work well
- Help the Commission understand your views on groundwater trading

Well-managed groundwater trading programs are based on sound water accounting, well thought out groundwater allocations, strong stakeholder engagement, and carefully developed trading rules that avoid negative impacts and protect equitable opportunities to participate in trading. Take advantage of this opportunity to share your valuable perspective with the state on the topic of groundwater trading.

The California Water Commission, in support of [Water Resilience Portfolio](#) Action 3.6, is holding two virtual public workshops to explore ways the state can support in-basin, locally led groundwater trading programs that ensure protections for vulnerable users, such as communities, small- and medium-size farms, and the environment.

Workshops will feature speakers representing groundwater sustainability agencies, the environment, disadvantaged communities, and small farmers.

Workshop attendees will learn more about what groundwater trading is and emerging ideas about how to do it well. Attendees will have an opportunity to share their thoughts on a role for the state in well-managed groundwater trading.

For more information, and to register, visit cwc.ca.gov/Programs-and-Topics. If you require translation of any materials or interpretation during the workshop, please call (916) 873-5774 or email cwc@water.ca.gov.

Public workshop schedule:

- Thursday, October 28, 2021
2:30-5 p.m.
 - Friday, October 29, 2021
9:30 a.m. to Noon
- Registration opens October 12

The Commission is working closely with a stakeholder advisory group to inform its work on groundwater trading and would like to thank the following organizations:



What is Groundwater Trading?

Groundwater Trading *and* SGMA



To implement the **Sustainable Groundwater Management Act of 2014**, local groundwater sustainability agencies (GSAs) have formed across the state. GSAs are local agencies that are responsible for making sure that groundwater is managed sustainably. GSAs for critically overdrafted groundwater basins – or those basins that have a history of using groundwater more rapidly than it is replenished – have already developed Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs) that outline how they will bring their groundwater basins into sustainable conditions.

In many cases, GSAs plan to use groundwater trading as a tool to help manage pumping within their basins. Some are already developing trading programs. Groundwater trading may reduce the economic hardships caused by water scarcity by giving water users **flexible, voluntary mechanisms** to shift available water to where it is needed most. This happens by letting water users buy groundwater allocations if they need more water and others sell allocations if they need less water.

For groundwater trading programs to be successful, they must be thoughtfully designed and governed, with robust stakeholder input, to achieve multi-benefit outcomes and prevent harm to disadvantaged communities, smaller farmers, and groundwater-dependent ecosystems, and to avoid other unintended negative consequences.

Allocations *and* Accounti

The Building Blocks for Groundwater Trading

Local and state agencies recognize that a groundwater budget, groundwater accounting, and groundwater allocations are essential to a well-managed groundwater trading program. A groundwater budget is one tool to help establish how much water is available within a GSA, while groundwater accounting tracks water use across users and over time. Groundwater allocations are a measurement of the amount of water that a given user is allowed to use. Without these components in place, groundwater trading has no basis.

Groundwater allocations are particularly important to groundwater trading. If groundwater is allocated thoughtfully and inclusively, it can support trading that does not undermine a community's access to safe, clean, affordable water adequate for human consumption, cooking, and sanitary purposes, and does not overlook groundwater dependent ecosystems and smaller farms.

FAQs

Will groundwater trading affect my area?

Groundwater trading is likely to occur in critically overdrafted groundwater basins that do not have enough groundwater and surface water to meet the needs of all water users without causing damage to the surrounding area. Most of these places are in the Salinas Valley, San Joaquin Valley, or southern California.

How widespread is groundwater trading?

Of the 46 GSPs submitted in January 2020, 19 say that a groundwater trading program will be set up or will be considered.

How do I know if groundwater trading program is being developed in my area?

You can reach out to the GSA in your area by using DWR's [GSA Map Viewer](https://sgma.water.ca.gov/webgis/index.jsp?appid=gas-master&rz=true) (https://sgma.water.ca.gov/webgis/index.jsp?appid=gas-master&rz=true). For more information about GSAs, visit [DWR's webpage](https://water.ca.gov/Programs/Groundwater-Management/SGMA-Groundwater-Management/Groundwater-Sustainable-Agencies) (https://water.ca.gov/Programs/Groundwater-Management/SGMA-Groundwater-Management/Groundwater-Sustainable-Agencies).

