



SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT (SGM) PROGRAM NEWS

July 27, 2016

The California Department of Water Resources provides bi-weekly updates regarding SGM Program information to its stakeholders and interested parties.

Best Management Practices Update – Development Framework and Survey Available

Now available online is the [Best Management Practices \(BMP\) Development Framework \(Framework\)](#) which outlines DWR's approach and timeline for development of BMPs. The framework describes how to engage in the development of BMPs and presents the schedule for developing the initial set of BMPs.

DWR has developed a [Best Management Practices \(BMP\) Survey](#) to help rank initial BMP development. The [Survey](#) is an opportunity for practitioners and members of the public to provide direct input on the BMPs considered of importance in their respective basins. The [Survey](#) proposes a number of potential BMPs respondents can rank and asks if there are additional BMPs respondents would like addressed. The [Survey](#) requires respondents to identify their name and affiliation.

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Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) Formation Notification

DWR's [GSA website](#) provides [GSA frequently asked questions](#) and [GSA formation guidelines](#) for local agencies to use when deciding to become or form a GSA. Please visit the [GSA Formation Table](#) to view the notifications DWR has received and posted. DWR continues to review and track GSA formation notifications and updates the [GSA Interactive Map](#) regularly. The GSA Interactive Map now shows the boundaries of Exclusive GSAs and the statutory boundaries of the exclusive local agencies identified in SGMA. As of July 25, 2016:

- Many local agencies have submitted GSA formation notices in multiple basins and counties.
- Some local agencies are submitting multiple notices for different areas in the same basin.
- 108 separate GSA formation notices have been submitted.
 - 64 have overlap in one or more basins that must be resolved.
 - 31 are "Exclusive GSAs" in one or more basins.
 - 13 have an active 90-day period in one or more basins.
 - 5 notices are incomplete.
- 74 basins have GSAs.

- 44 basins are high- or medium-priority.
- 30 basins are low- or very-low priority.
- 27 counties have GSAs.
- In order to avoid potential intervention by the State Water Resources Control Board (Water Code Section 10735.2) the entire basin must be covered by one or more GSAs by June 30, 2017, or an Alternative Plan that covers the entire basin must have been submitted to DWR by January 1, 2017.

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Facilitation Support Services Available

DWR has secured additional funding to provide facilitation support services to local agencies and water management groups. DWR continues to accept new applications and provide additional support. The [Facilitation Support Service Program](#) connects water management groups with professional facilitators to support local public agencies seeking to meet requirements of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA), including forming groundwater sustainability agencies (GSAs) and developing groundwater sustainability plans (GSPs). Facilitation support services from contracted professionals include strategic planning, stakeholder assessments, meeting facilitation, mediation, governance assessment, and public outreach services. Requests for facilitation support services will be evaluated on a regular basis and support will vary based on need and funding availability.

For more information about applying for Facilitation Support Services, please view the [Information for Applicants](#) and [Supplemental Information for SGMA Implementation](#). To discuss applications for Facilitation Support Services, please contact your DWR Region Office Representative:

- **Northern Region Office (Red Bluff)** – Mary Randall, Mary.Randall@water.ca.gov
- **North Central Region Office (West Sacramento)** – Hong Lin, Hong.Lin@water.ca.gov
- **South Central Region Office (Fresno)** – Charles McKenzie, Charles.McKenzie@water.ca.gov
- **Southern Region Office (Glendale)** – Brian Moniz, Brian.Moniz@water.ca.gov

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Basin Boundary Modifications Update

DWR held a series of public meetings in mid-July to present the [Draft Approved Basin Boundary Modifications](#), provide an overview of the [Basin Boundary Modification Request System](#) (BBMRS), technical review process, answer clarifying questions and receive further public comments on the Draft Approved Basin Boundary Modification submissions.

[Public comments were summarized and presented](#) to the California Water Commission on July 21, 2016, providing additional opportunity for public comment. Following the consideration and potential incorporation of comments heard, DWR will publish the final basin boundary modifications in September 2016, to be included in the Interim Update of Bulletin 118. View the memorandum to the California Water Commission [here](#).

For more information regarding California's groundwater basins please visit the Basin Boundary Modifications [webpage](#).

To discuss modification submissions please contact your DWR Region Office Representative:

- **Northern Region Office (Red Bluff)** – Bill Ehorn, Bill.Ehorn@water.ca.gov
- **North Central Region Office (West Sacramento)** – Bill Brewster, Bill.Brewster@water.ca.gov
- **South Central Region Office (Fresno)** – Dane Mathis, Dane.Mathis@water.ca.gov
- **Southern Region Office (Glendale)** – Tim Ross, Timothy.Ross@water.ca.gov

Local agencies can locate their respective Region Office Representative by accessing the map-tool [here](#).

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Water Available for Groundwater Replenishment

The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) directs DWR to prepare and publish a report on water available for replenishment of groundwater in California by December 31, 2016. SGMA stakeholder and advisory groups have provided input to DWR that will help guide the content and scope of the Water Available for Groundwater Replenishment (WAFR) Report. DWR has developed a [draft white paper](#) describing concepts, challenges, uncertainties, and a potential technical approach to estimating water available for groundwater replenishment. The draft report on WAFR will be released in December 2016 for public review

and comment. For more information please visit DWR's [Water Available for Groundwater Replenishment webpage](#).

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Adjudicated Basin Reporting

The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) requires an adjudicated basin Watermaster or local agencies to annually report water information beginning April 1, 2016. DWR has created an [online adjudicated basin reporting system](#) that allows the Watermaster or local agencies to report the required information and allows the public to review the submitted information. Reported information, where available, includes groundwater elevation, groundwater extraction, surface water available for groundwater recharge, total water use, and change in groundwater storage. For more information on adjudicated basin reporting, please visit: <http://www.water.ca.gov/groundwater/sgm/adjudicated.cfm>

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SGMA Definitions and Groundwater Glossary

SGMA provided California with a roadmap for sustainably managing our groundwater, and it also came with its own lexicon. Looking for the definition of “Undesirable result” or “De minimis extractor”? It’s right [here](#). Additional important groundwater terms and definitions are included in the Groundwater Information Center's [Groundwater Glossary](#).

New and Notable

CASGEM, DWR/Local Groundwater Monitoring Partnership Expands and Improves

Groundwater elevation data is foundational to improving the management and sustainability of California’s groundwater resources. The overall purpose of the California Statewide Groundwater Elevation Monitoring Program (CASGEM) is to track seasonal and long-term groundwater elevation trends in basins statewide. In April, DWR released a [Status Report](#) to the Legislature and the Governor. Between 2012 and 2015 a lot has been accomplished by local entities and DWR including:

- The latest update shows that 94 percent of the state’s high- and medium-priority basins are compliant with the minimum groundwater level monitoring standards of the CASGEM Program.

- The number of groundwater basins monitored has increased from 152 in 2013 to 239 by the end of 2015.

CASGEM data will be necessary for assessing the impact of the ongoing drought and implementation of SGMA. DWR is working with local agencies to achieve 100 percent participation for all high- and medium-priority basins, as well as increased participation for lower priority basins. To be eligible for State water grants, high- and medium-priority basins must participate in CASGEM, with exemptions for disadvantaged communities.

DWR Op-Ed on Stanford Groundwater Report

Stanford University researchers recently released a report stating California has a groundwater “windfall”. Characterizing deep-aquifer water as fresh misleads. Using deeper water would not be a sustainable enterprise. A more sustainable evaluation of groundwater takes into consideration how much of the aquifer can truly be withdrawn before creating significant and unreasonable impacts to the surrounding agricultural, urban, industrial, domestic, and environmental groundwater uses. Read the full op-ed [here](#).

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Visit SaveOurWater.com to find out how everyone can do their part, and visit <http://drought.ca.gov> to learn more about how California is dealing with the effects of the drought. The Department of Water Resources operates and maintains the State Water Project, provides dam safety and flood control and inspection services, assists local water districts in water management and water conservation planning, and plans for future statewide water needs.