



Sustainable Groundwater Management Act - *A Regulatory Update*

*California Department of Water Resources
Sustainable Groundwater Management Program*

May 2016





Presentation Overview

- **Groundwater Legislation**
 - Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA)
- **DWR's Sustainable Groundwater Management Program**
 - Basin Boundaries / Bulletin 118 – California's Groundwater
 - Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) Formation
 - Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) Regulations
- **Draft GSP Regulation**



Groundwater Legislation (Sustainable Groundwater Management Act)

California's Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA)



“A central feature of these bills is the recognition that groundwater management in California is best accomplished locally.”

Governor Jerry Brown, September 2014

SGMA is a three bill legislative package:

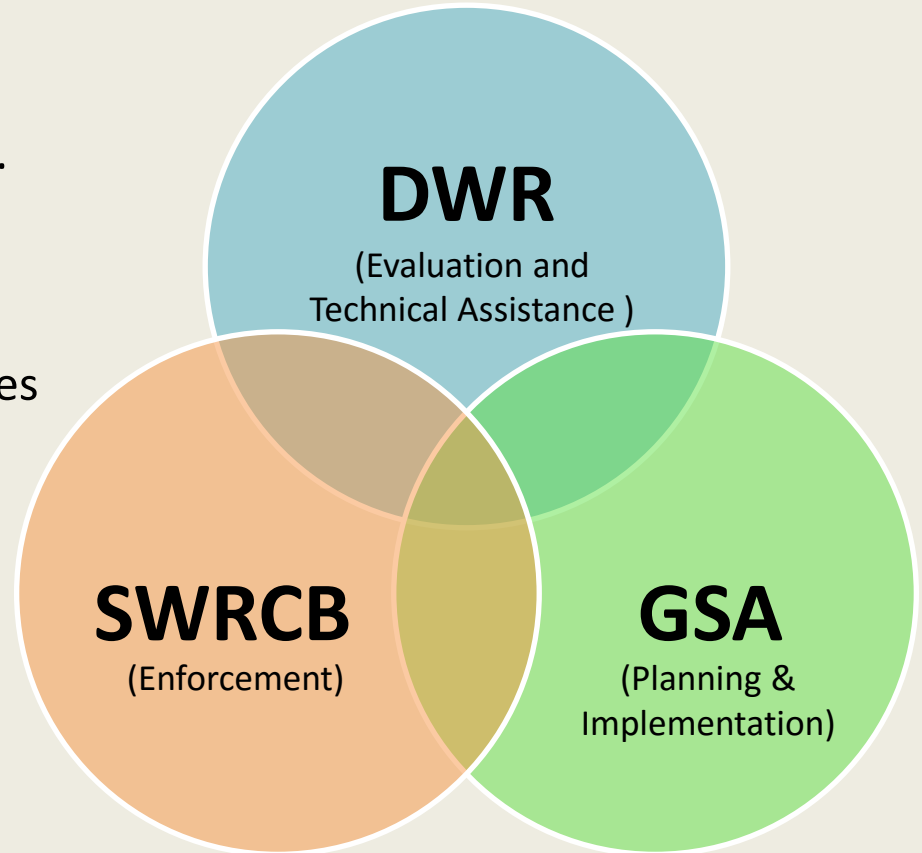
- SB 1168 (Pavley)
- AB 1739 (Dickinson)
- SB 1319 (Pavley)



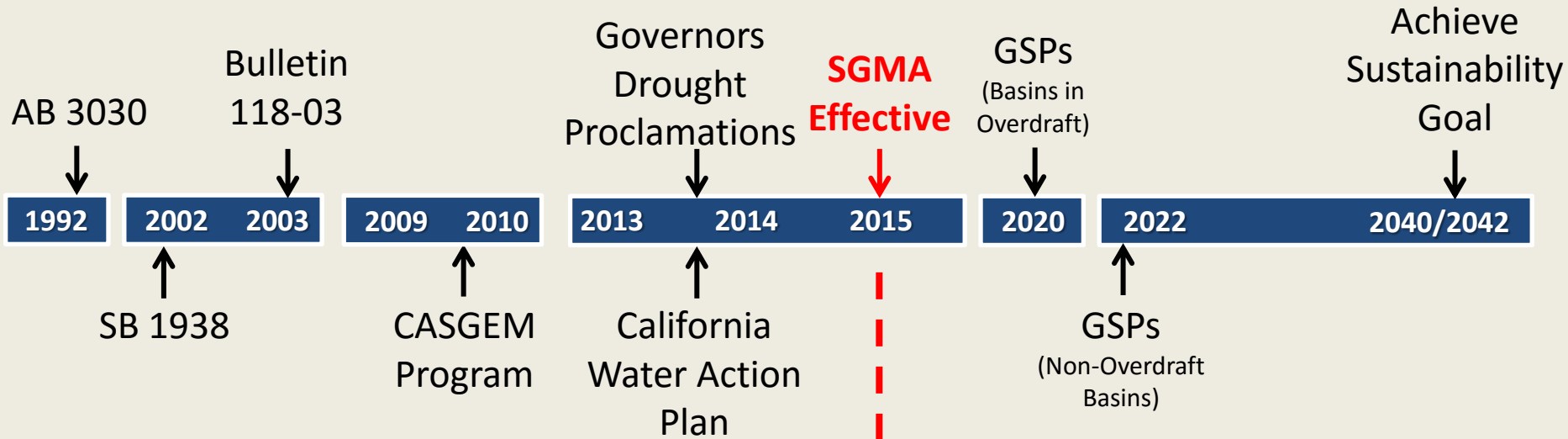
SGMA Roles and Responsibilities

SGMA Legislative Intent:

- a) To provide for the sustainable management of groundwater basins.
- b) To enhance local management.
- c) To establish minimum management standards.
- d) To provide local groundwater agencies with authority and the necessary technical and financial assistance.
- e) To avoid or minimize subsidence.
- f) To improve data collection.
- g) To increase groundwater storage.
- h) To manage groundwater basins through the actions of local governmental agencies while minimizing state intervention.



California's Major Groundwater Milestones



Voluntary Groundwater Management

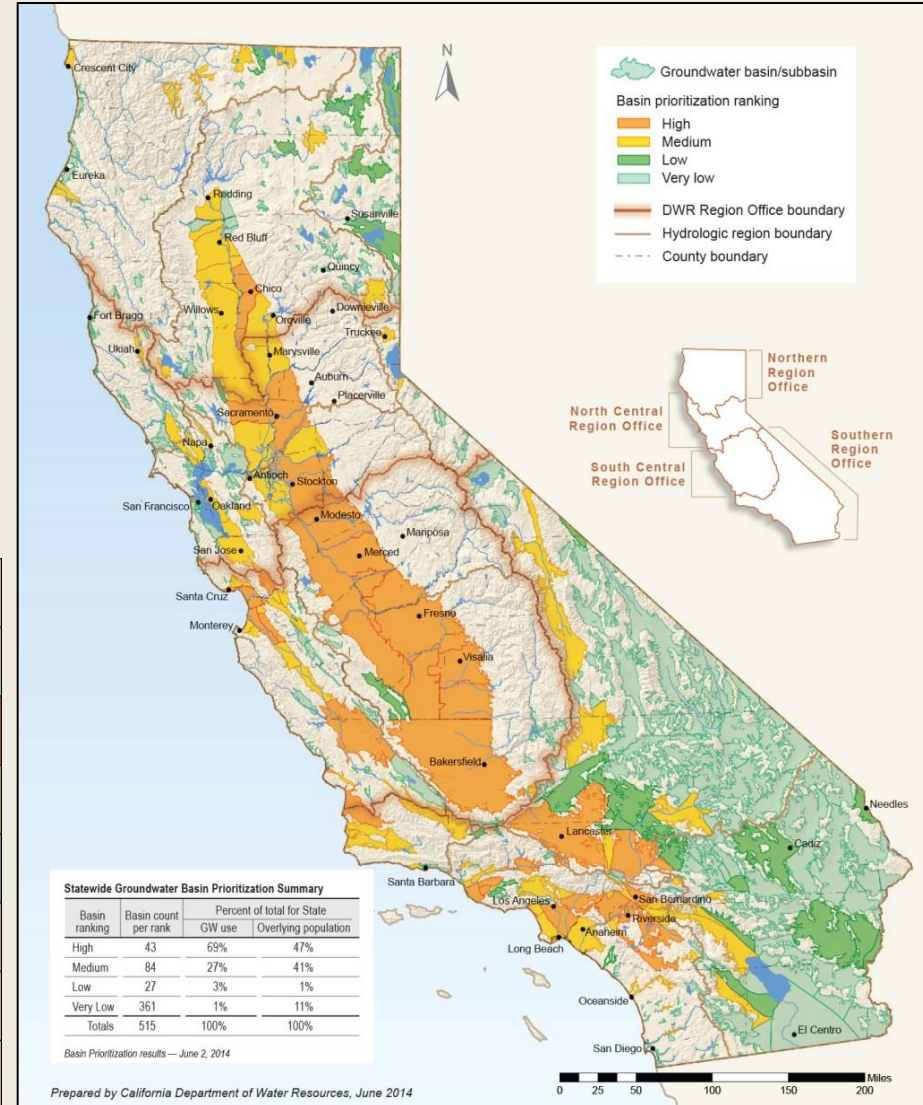
- Service area planning
- Minimal implementation
- Variable authority
- Grant incentives

Required Groundwater Management

- Entire basin planning
- Required implementation
- GSAs have new:
 - Authorities
 - Responsibilities
- SWRCB backstop

Where Does SGMA Apply?

- All high- and medium-priority basins are subject to SGMA.
- A “basin” is an alluvial aquifer, not a fractured bedrock aquifer.
- High- and Medium-priority basins account for:
 - 96% of average annual GW supply
 - 88% of 2010 population overlying GW basin area

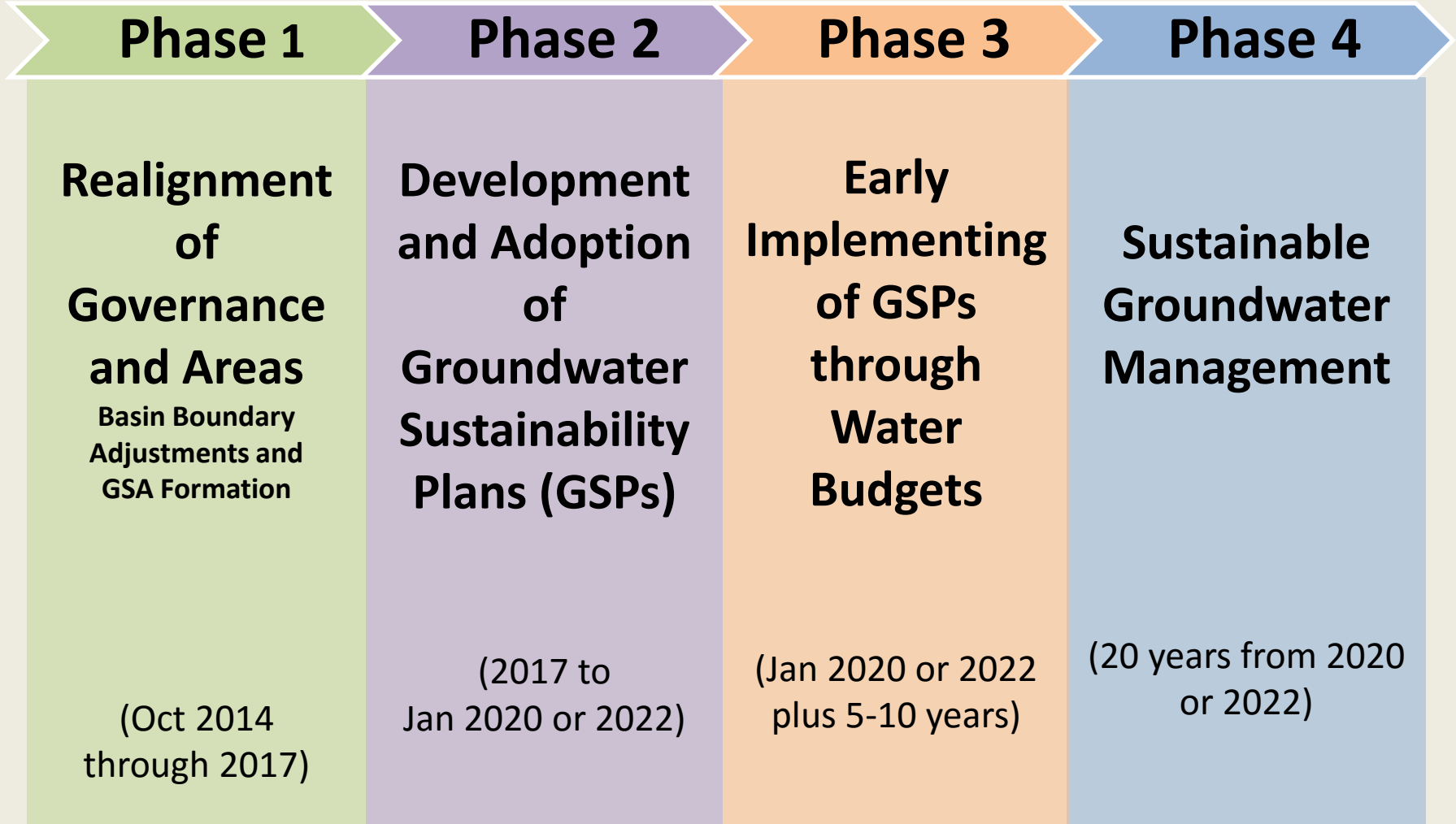


BASIN RANKING	BASIN COUNT	PERCENT OF TOTAL	
		GW USE	POPULATION
High	43	69%	47%
Medium	84	27%	41%
Low	27	3%	1%
Very Low	361	1%	11%
Totals	515	100%	100%

Basin Prioritization Results – June 2, 2014



Phases to Implement SGMA and Achieve Sustainable Groundwater Management





DWR's Sustainable Groundwater Management Program



DWR Required SGMA Components

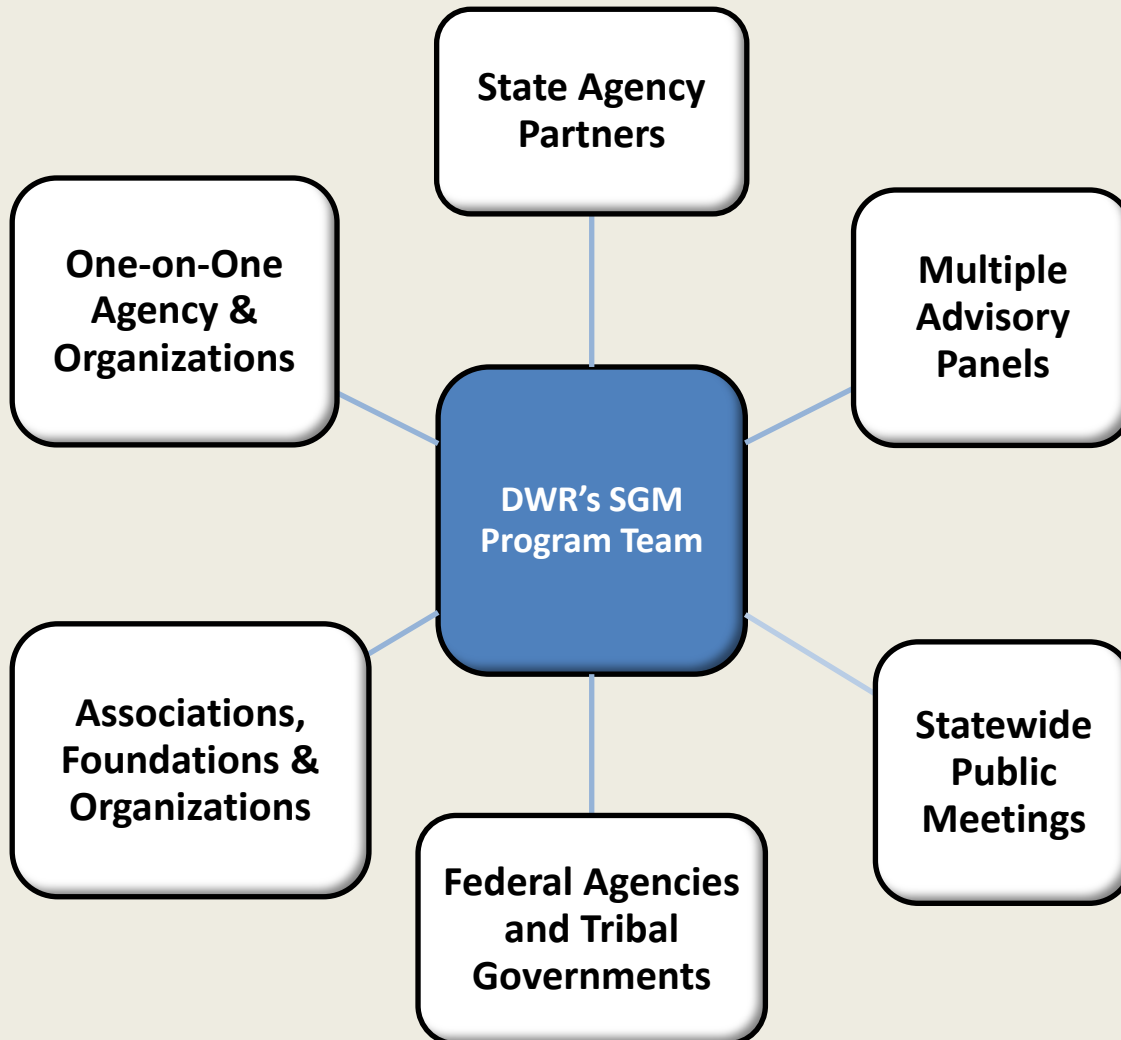
<http://water.ca.gov/groundwater/sgm/index.cfm>

- Two Regulations
 - Basin Boundary Regulation
 - GSP Regulation
- GSA Formation Tracking and Evaluation
- Critically Overdrafted Basins
- Adjudicated Area Reporting and Tracking
- Water Available for Replenishment
- Development of BMPs
- Technical Assistance Program
- Basin Prioritization
- Bulletin 118 Updates

The screenshot shows the California Department of Water Resources website. The header includes the CA.GOV logo, navigation links (HOME, NEWSROOM & EVENTS, ISSUES, ABOUT US), and a search bar. The main content area is titled "SGM Sustainable Groundwater Management" and features an "Introduction" section. The introduction text states: "The Department of Water Resources (DWR) has developed a Strategic Plan for its Sustainable Groundwater Management (SGM) Program. DWR's SGM Program will implement the new and expanded responsibilities identified in the 2014 Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). Some of these expanded responsibilities include: (1) developing regulations to revise groundwater basin boundaries; (2) adopting regulations for evaluating and implementing Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs) and coordination agreements; (3) identifying basins subject to critical conditions of overdraft; (4) identifying water available for groundwater replenishment; and (5) publishing best management practices for the sustainable management of groundwater." Below the introduction are sections for "Announcements" and "Groundwater Sustainability Program Draft Strategic Plan". The "Announcements" section includes three items: "Draft GSP Emergency Regulations Guide Now Available", "Draft Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) Emergency Regulations and Public Meetings", and "Legislative Oversight Hearing on State Implementation of SGMA". The "Groundwater Sustainability Program Draft Strategic Plan" section includes a description of the draft plan and a link to the plan. A right-hand sidebar titled "GROUNDWATER HOME SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT" lists various resources and links, including "Adjudicated Basin Reporting", "Basin Boundary Modifications", "Critically Overdrafted Basins", "Communication and Outreach", "Groundwater Sustainability Agencies", "Groundwater Sustainability Plan Regulations", "Initial Basin Prioritization", "Resources", and "SGMA Archive".



SGM Communication and Outreach



SGMA ADVISORY GROUPS

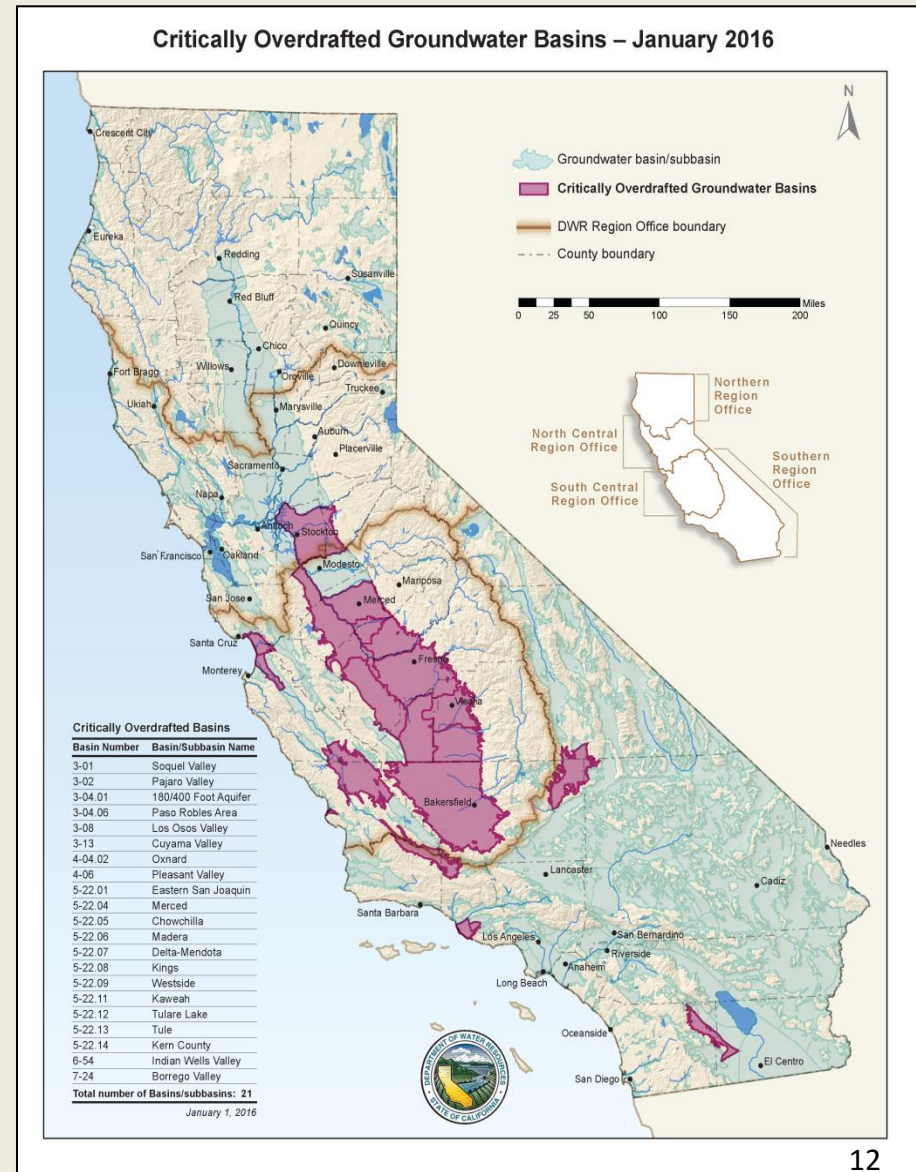
- Practitioners Advisory Panel
- Tribal Advisory Group
- Non-Governmental Organizations
- Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA)
- Northern California Water Association (NCWA)
- San Joaquin Tributaries Authority
- San Luis & Delta Mendota Water Authority
- Central Coast Area
- RCRC & CSAC
- Agricultural Community
- Tulare Lake Hydrologic Group
- Numerous other meetings with Local Agencies

Basin Boundary Regulation / Bulletin 118



http://water.ca.gov/groundwater/sgm/basin_boundaries.cfm and
<http://water.ca.gov/groundwater/bulletin118/index.cfm>

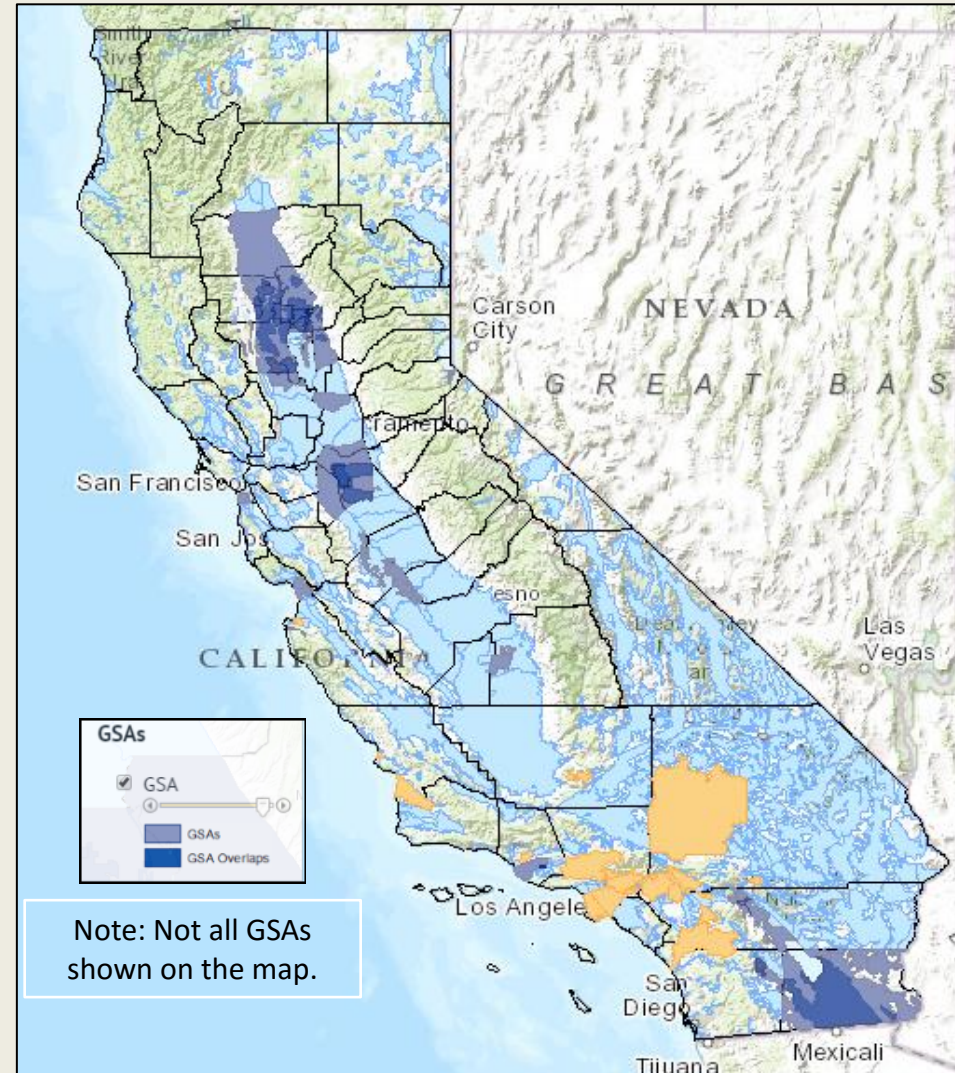
- Bulletin 118 published in 1975, 1980 and 2003
- Basin Boundary Regulation – Local Agencies can request modifications of the basin definition
- DWR plans to update Bulletin 118 in years ending in 0 and 5
- 2017 Interim Update will contain details for:
 - Critically overdrafted basins
 - Revised groundwater basin boundaries
 - Updated basin priorities
 - Regional information
 - SGMA information
- 2020 update will be comprehensive



GSA Formation

<http://water.ca.gov/groundwater/sgm/gsa.cfm>

- GSAs must form by June 30, 2017
- **64 GSAs** have been formed as of March 1, 2016
- Many need to resolve overlapping service area boundaries
- SB 13 requires DWR to review GSA notices for completeness
- DWR is identifying exclusive GSAs on its GSA Formation Table
- GSAs have a requirement to address stakeholder interests





GSP Regulation Requirements

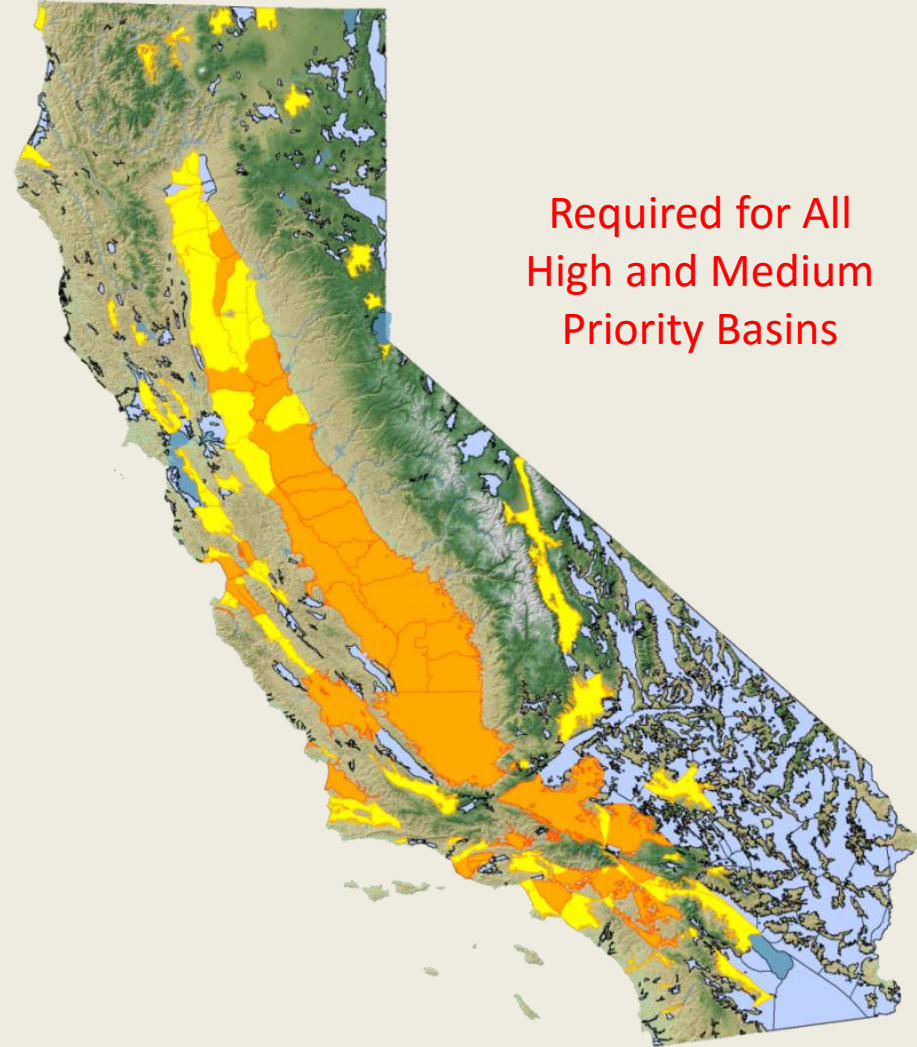
<http://water.ca.gov/groundwater/sgm/gsp.cfm>

By June 1, 2016, DWR shall adopt regulations for:

- Evaluation of GSPs & Alternatives
- Implementation of GSPs & Alternatives
- Coordination agreements

The regulations shall identify:

- Required Plan Components (§10727.2)
- Additional Plan Elements (§10727.4)
- Coordination of multiple GSPs in basin (§10727.6)
- Other information that will assist local agencies in developing and implementing GSPs and coordination agreements



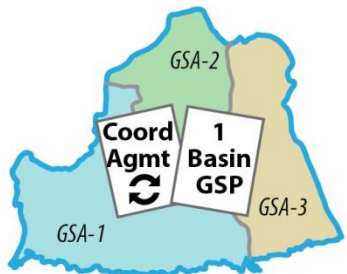


Draft GSP Regulation

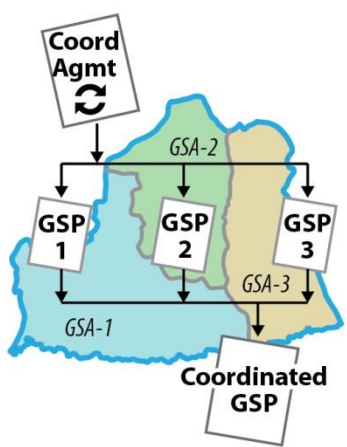
One GSA, One GSP



Multiple GSAs, One GSP with single Coordination Agreement



Multiple GSAs, Multiple GSPs with single Coordination Agreement

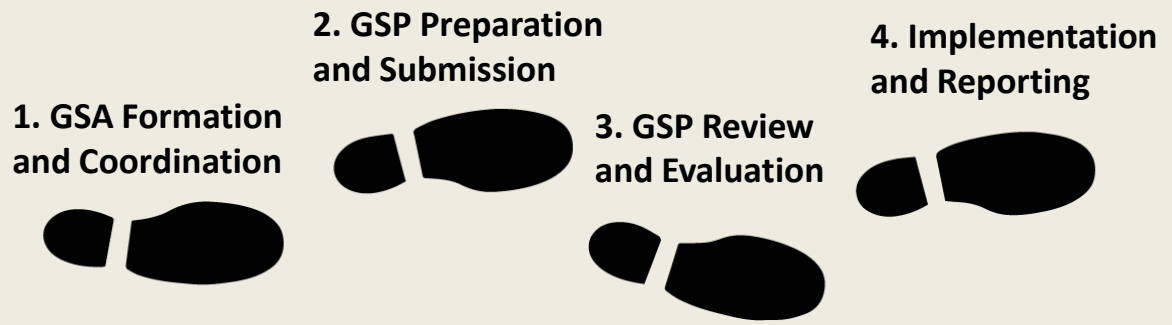


Overview of Regulations

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Governor Jerry Brown, September 2014

Phases of GSP Development and Implementation



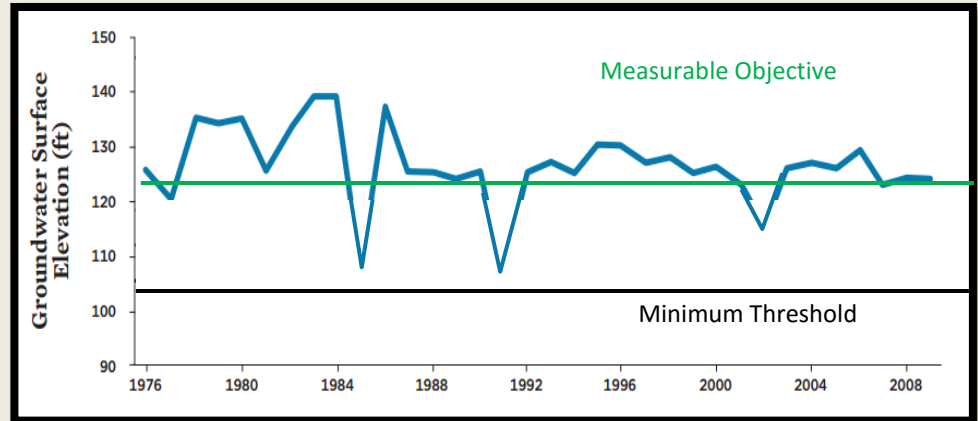
GSP Requirements - Overview



Avoiding Undesirable Results

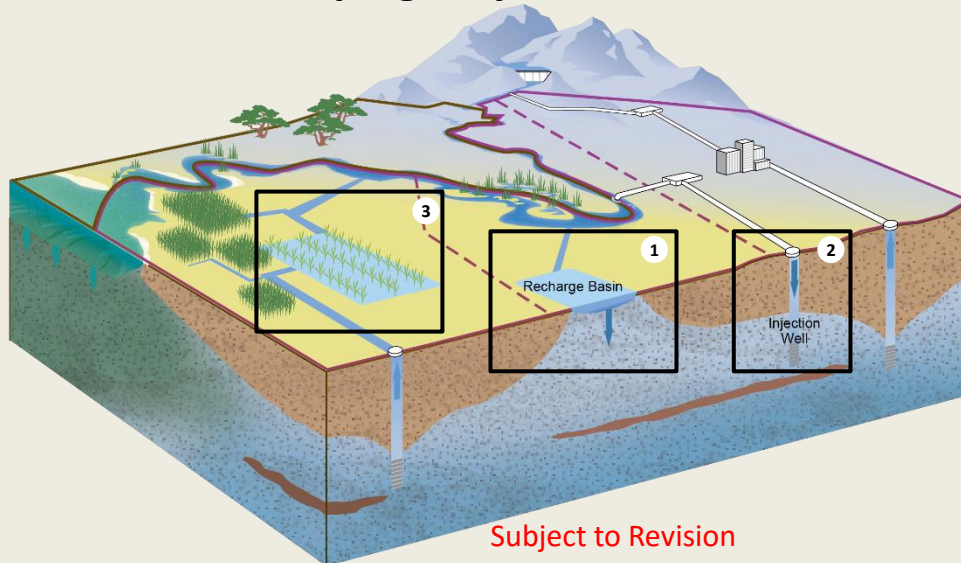
Surface Water Depletion	Reduction of Storage	Degraded Quality
Seawater Intrusion	Land Subsidence	Lowering GW Levels

Measuring & Monitoring Groundwater Conditions

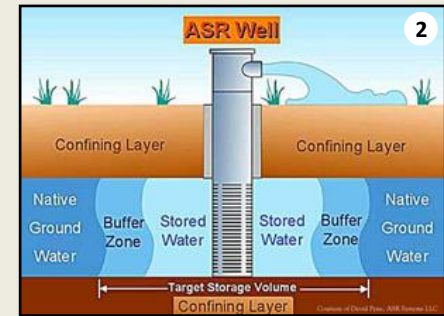


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Developing Projects and Actions



Subject to Revision

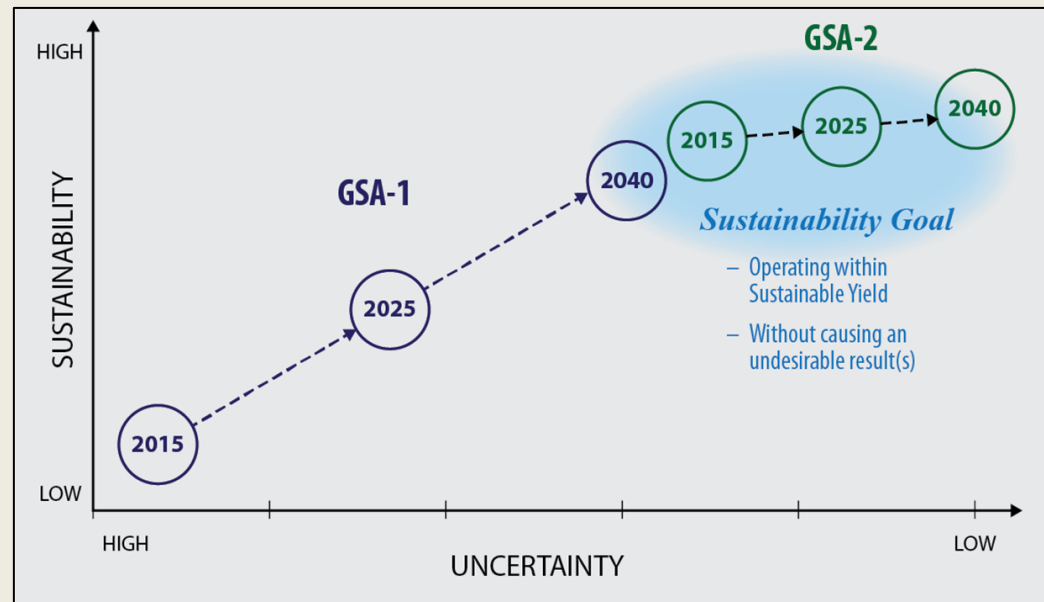


Article 1. Introductory Provisions

§ 350.2. General Principles

The GSP or Alternative:

- Must achieve the sustainability goal for the entire basin in 20 yrs
- Cannot adversely affect an adjacent basin
- Meet a substantial compliance standard
- Provide a description of basin-wide governance to reach sustainability
- Establish timeline and priority for filling data gaps
- Adaptive management



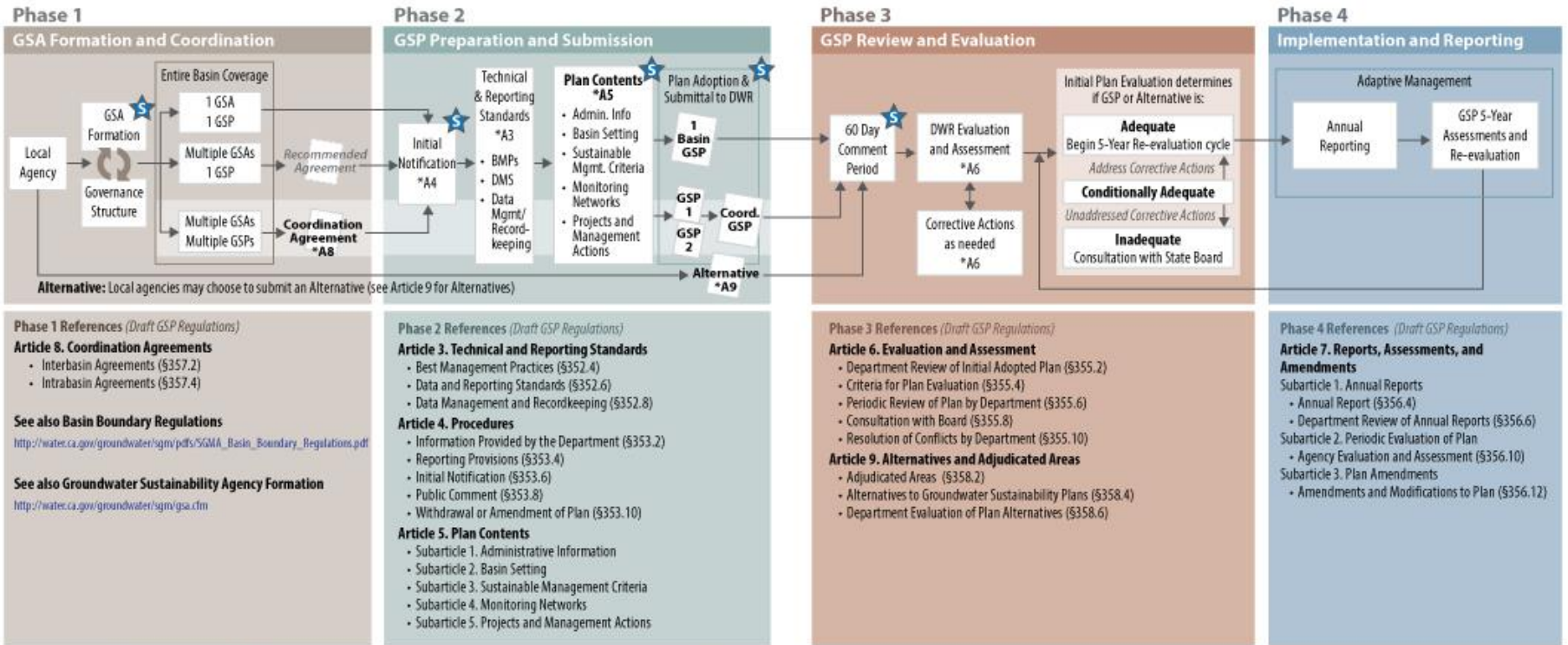


Sustainable Groundwater Management: 4-Phase Process

http://water.ca.gov/groundwater/sgm/pdfs/GSP_Regulations_Guide.pdf

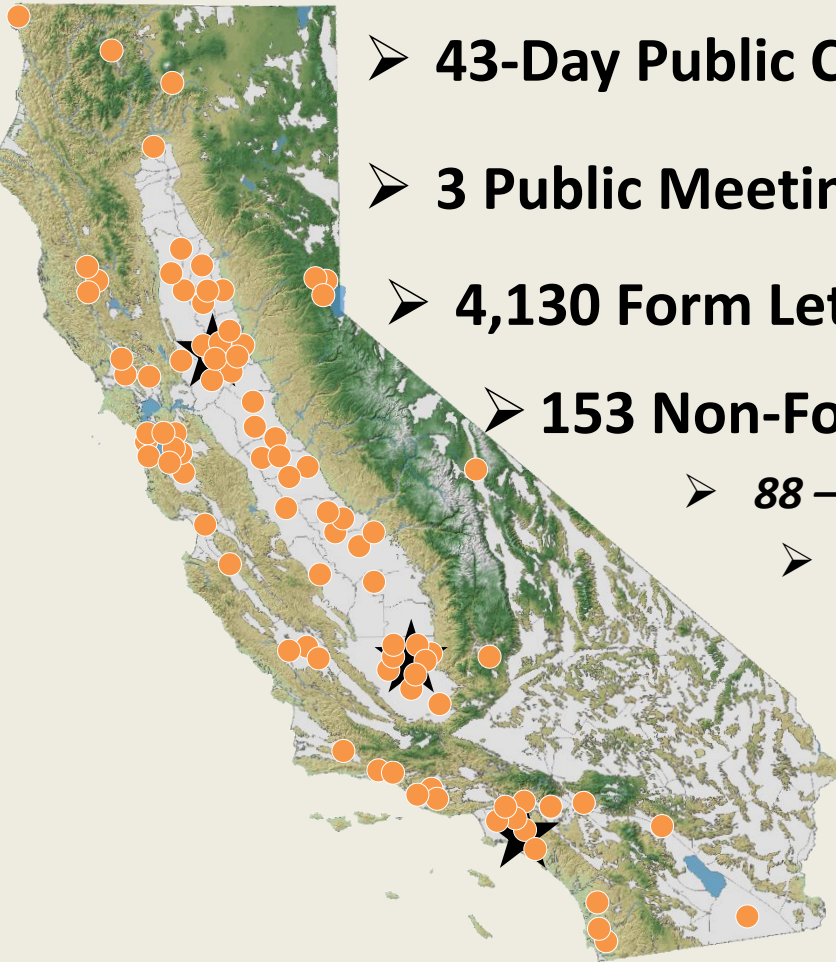
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GSP Process Phases



Summary of Comments

- 43-Day Public Comment Period
- 3 Public Meetings – Sacramento, Visalia, Santa Ana
- 4,130 Form Letters
- 153 Non-Form Letters (>2,000 text edits)
 - 88 – Local Agencies
 - 21 – Organizations
 - 20 – Private Companies
 - 9 – Individuals
 - 8 – NGOs
 - 6 – State or Federal Agencies
 - 1 – Tribal



Comments By Regulation Article



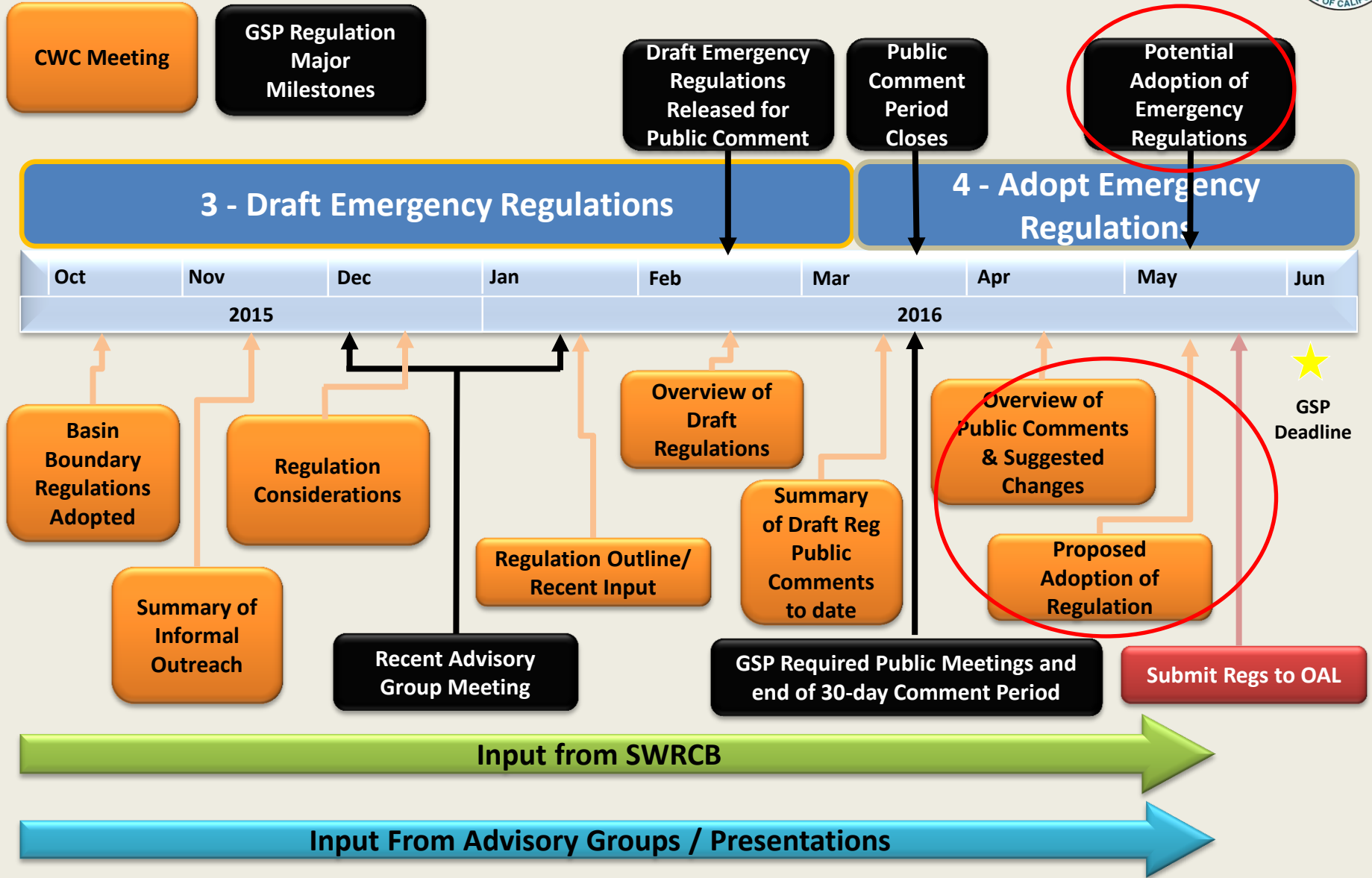
of Comments



Primary Changes to Draft GSP Regulations

- Removal of Coordinating Agency
- Removal of Best Management Practices from Regulation
- Clarification of Substantial Compliance
- Clarification on Management Areas

Draft GSP Regulation Timeline/Next Steps



Dates and Durations are Subject to Change



Next Steps

- California Water Commission Meeting May 18, 2016
 - https://cwc.ca.gov/Pages/2016/05_May/05182016Agenda.aspx
 - Requesting adoption of Proposed Groundwater Sustainability Plan Regulations
- 2016 Basin Boundary Modification Process
 - Draft Recommended Modifications Late June 2016
 - Final Basin Modifications Late July 2016
- Alternative Plans Due January 1, 2017
- Groundwater Sustainability Agency Formation Due June 30, 2017
- GSP Due based on Conditions of Overdraft
 - January 31, 2020 for Basins in Overdraft
 - January 31, 2022 for all other High and Medium Priority Basins



Information Links

- Sustainable Groundwater Management
 - <http://www.water.ca.gov/groundwater/sgm/index.cfm>
- Groundwater Sustainability Plan Regulations
 - <http://www.water.ca.gov/groundwater/sgm/gsp.cfm>
- Basin Boundary Modifications
 - http://www.water.ca.gov/groundwater/sgm/basin_boundaries.cfm
- Groundwater Sustainability Agencies
 - <http://www.water.ca.gov/groundwater/sgm/gsa.cfm>
- Communication and Outreach
 - <http://www.water.ca.gov/groundwater/sgm/outreach.cfm>
- Groundwater Information Center
 - <http://www.water.ca.gov/groundwater/gwinfo/index.cfm>



Thank you

Questions?