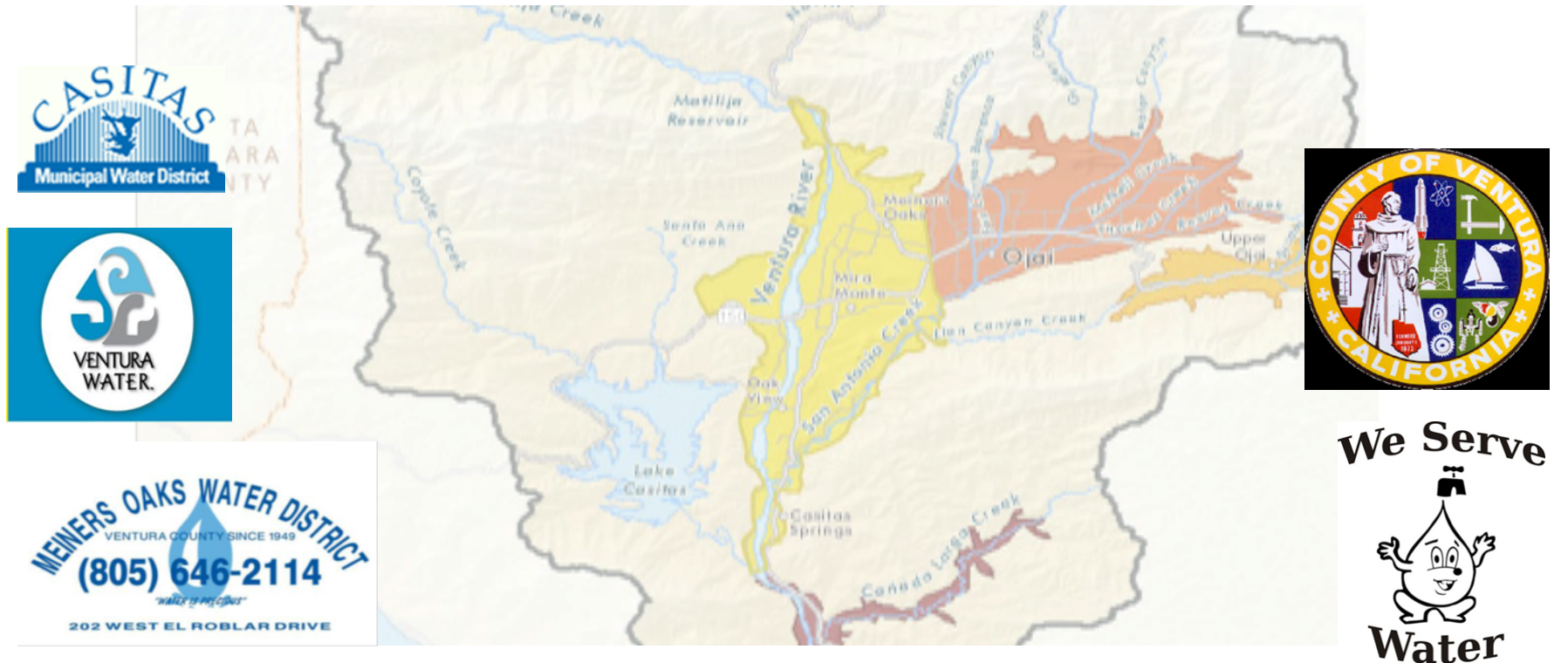


Upper Ventura River Groundwater Sub-Basin



Groundwater Sustainability Agency
Formation Committee
April 23, 2015

Where did this new agency idea come from?

- ❖ State wide Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA)
- ❖ Signed into law September 16, 2014

What does it require?

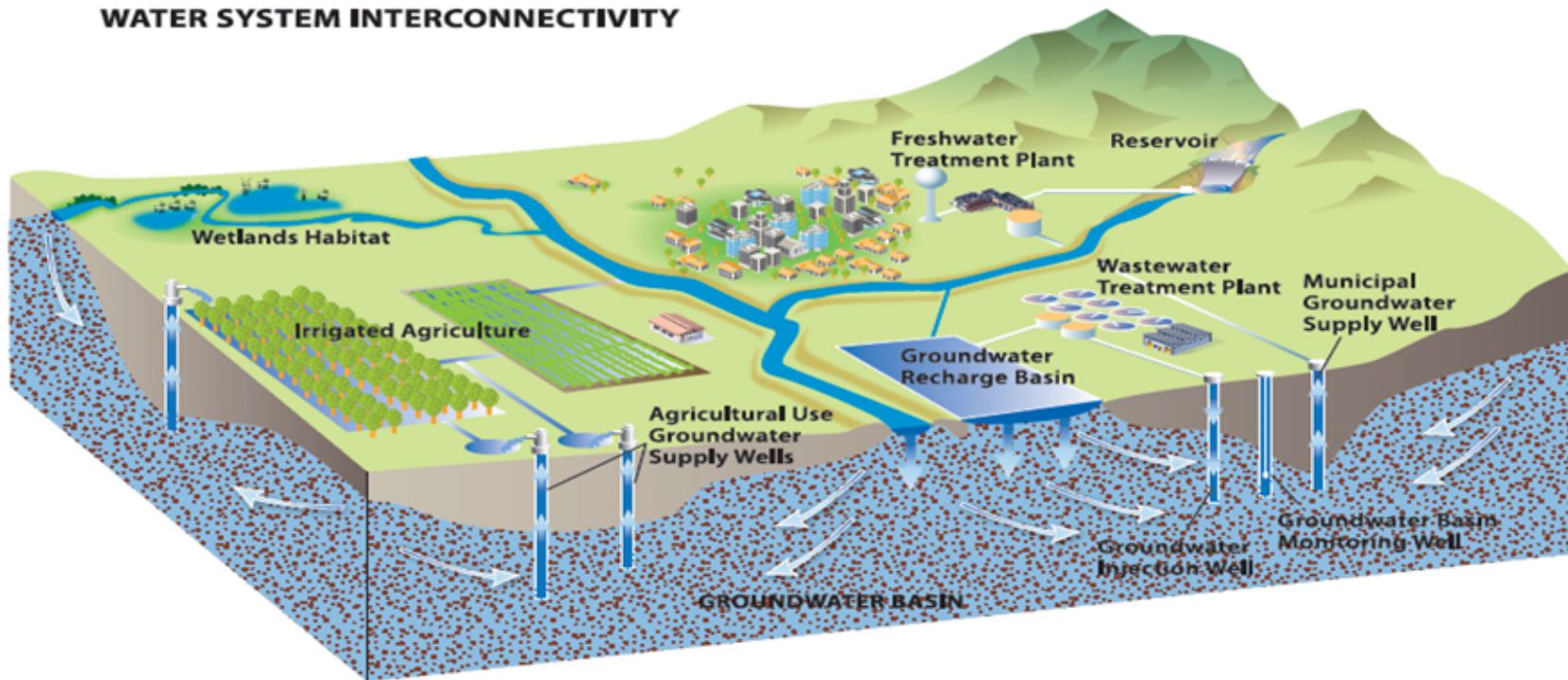
- ❖ Groundwater Sustainability Agency by 2017
- ❖ Groundwater Sustainability Plan by 2022
- ❖ Achieve Sustainability 20 yrs after adoption

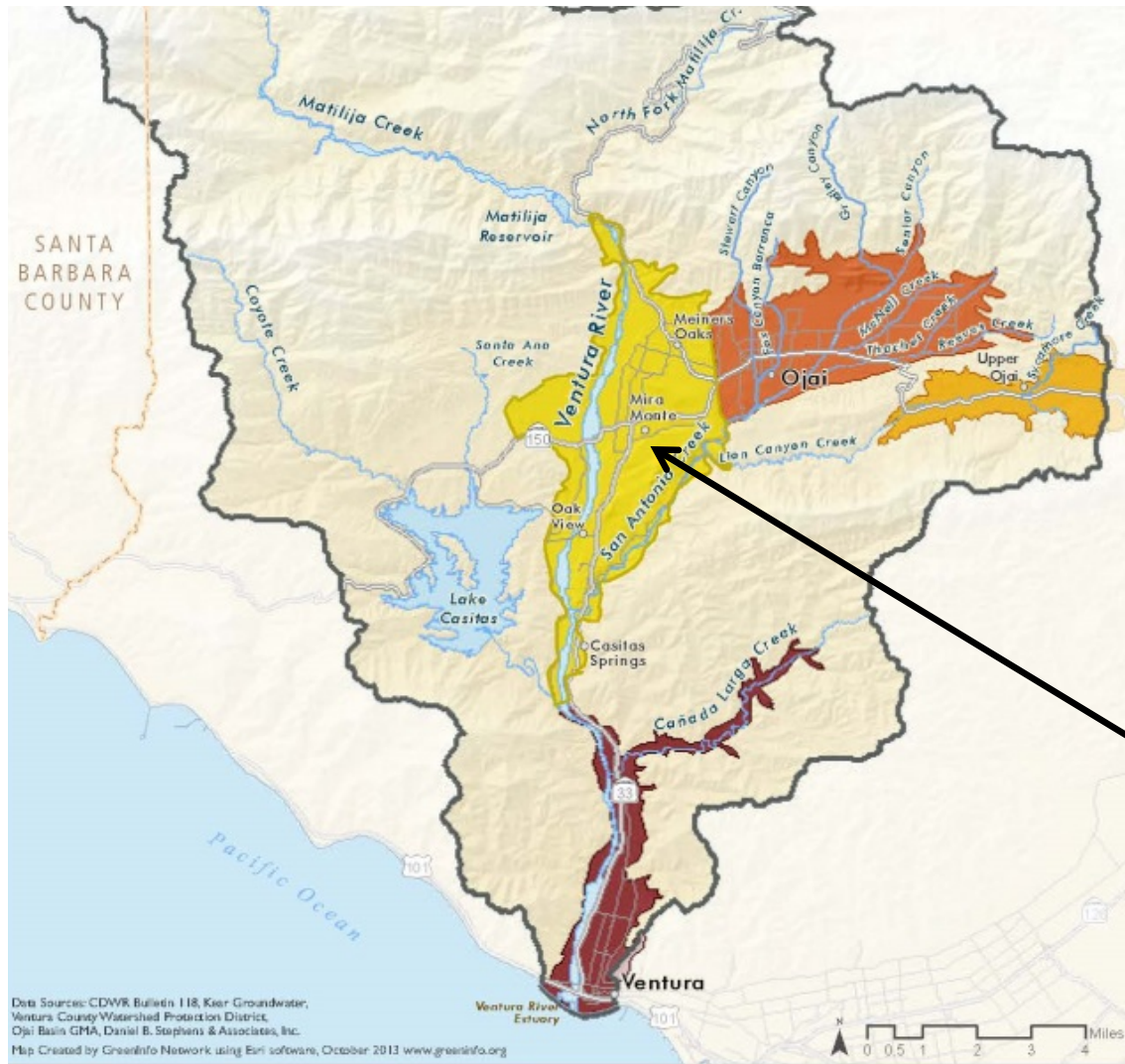
How to be involved

- * We will be asking for your thoughts on the groundwater basin later tonight.
- * Sign up at the back table to be contacted for future meetings.
- * Specify your area of interest:
 - * Agricultural Irrigation
 - * Domestic Water
 - * Biological resources
 - * Everything

How the Water Cycle Works

WATER SYSTEM INTERCONNECTIVITY





Upper Ventura
River Sub-Basin

Ranked

“Medium Priority Basin”

Groundwater Basins

Ventura River Watershed

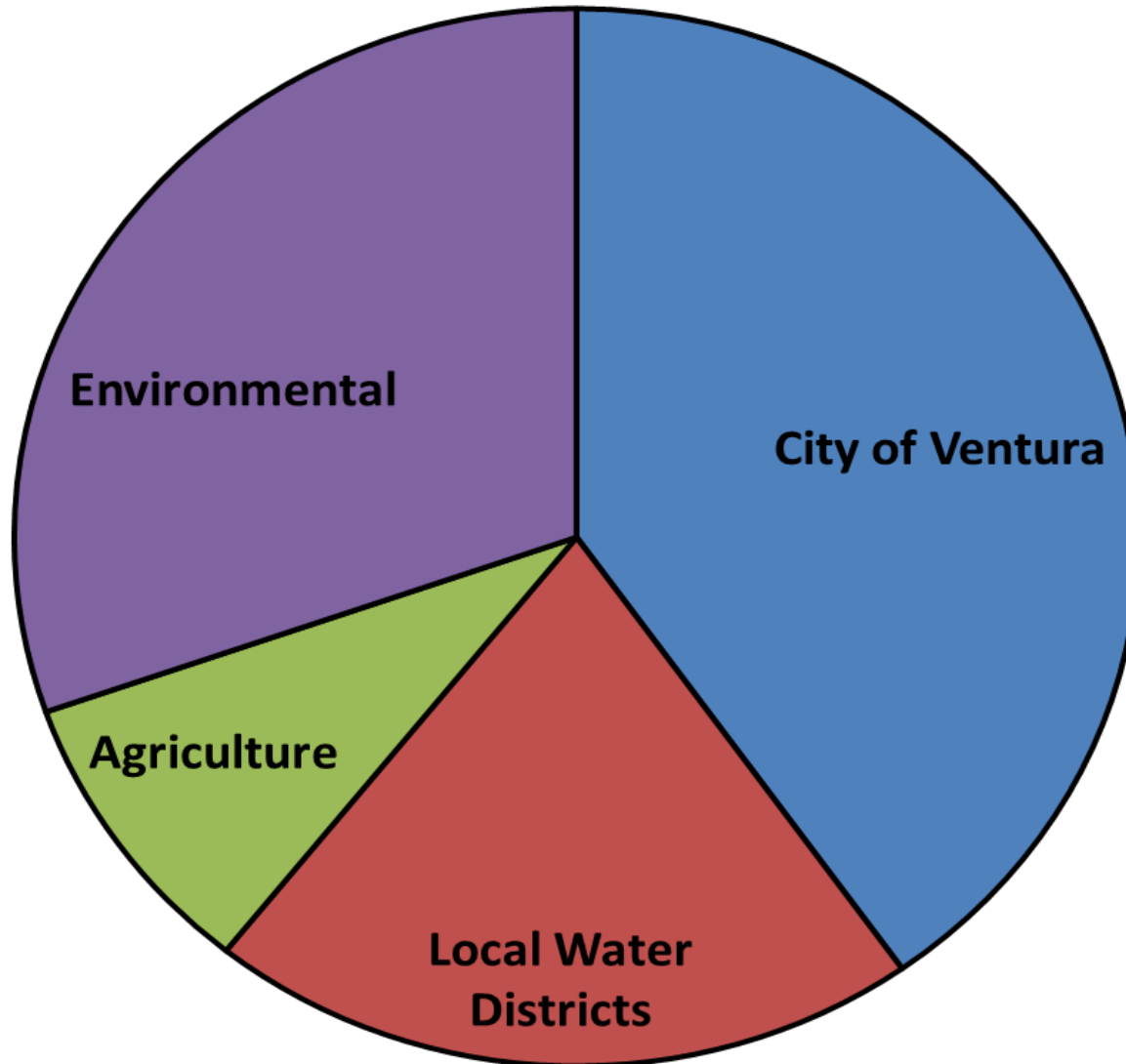
| Groundwater Basin | Acres | Sq. Mi. | Shallow Depth to Water (ft.) | Max. Capacity | Avg. Well Yield | Active Wells | Approx. Safe Yield |
|---------------------|-------|---------|------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|--------------|-----------------------|
| Upper Ojai | 2,840 | 4.4 | 0-40 | 5,681 AF | 50 gpm | 95 | Unavail. |
| Ojai Valley | 6,471 | 10.1 | 0-80 | 85,000 AF | 383 gpm | 149 | 5,026 AF |
| Upper Ventura River | 9,360 | 14.6 | 0-5 | 35,118 AF | 600 gpm | 160 | 9,482 AF |
| Lower Ventura River | 6,090 | 9.5 | 3-13 | 8,743 AF ^a | 20 gpm | 16 | 2,130 AF ^b |



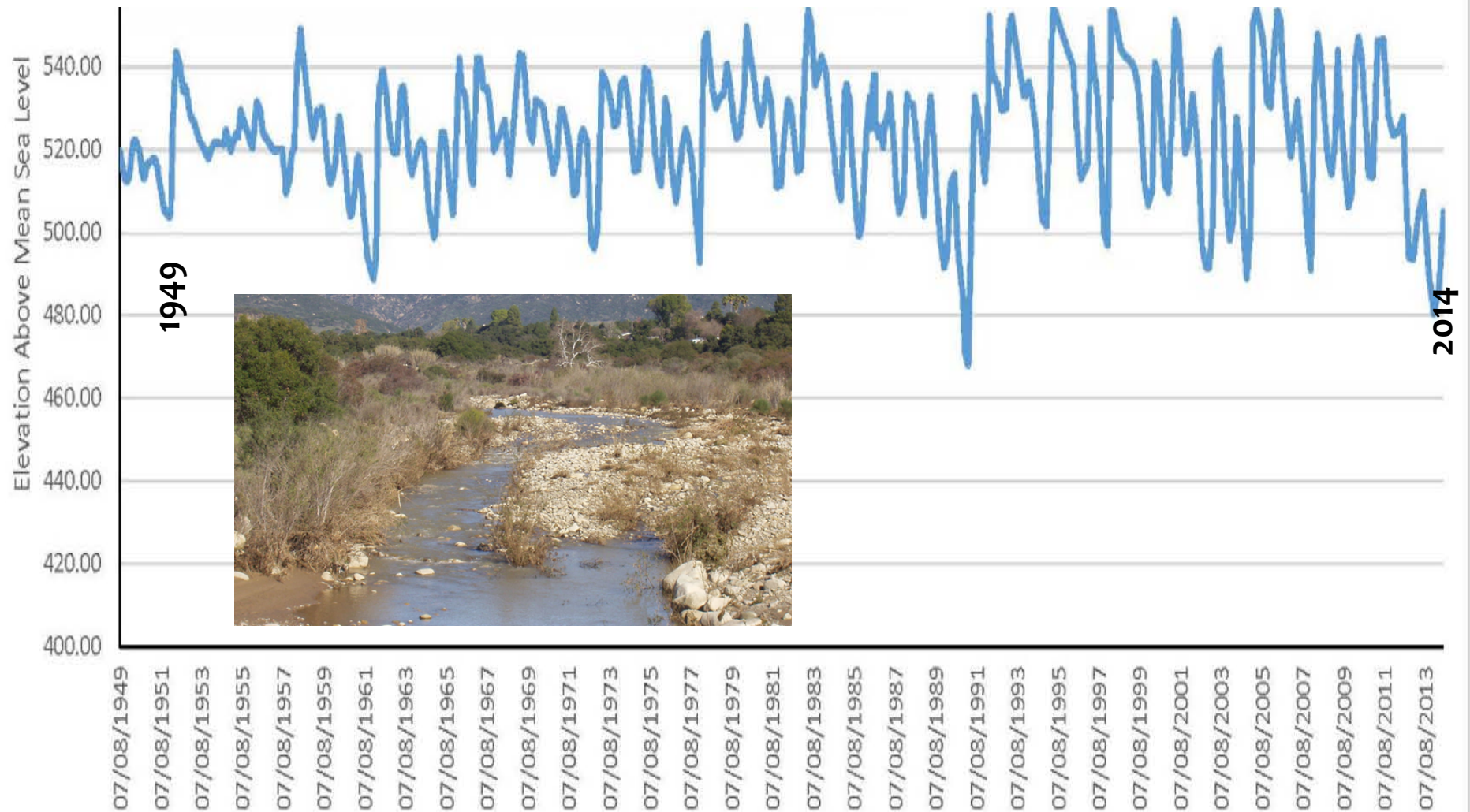
a - Represents unconsolidated alluvium
b - Preliminary estimate, based on groundwater balance for water years 1997-2007

Sources: Daniel B. Stephens & Associates, Inc. 2010 & 2013

Characterization of Water Usage in the Basin



UPPER VENTURA RIVER SUB-BASIN WATER TABLE ELEVATIONS



Framework for Sustainability

- * Emphasis on local control
- * State intervention only if locals do not act
- * Comprehensive State policy initiative including:
 - Water conservation
 - Water recycling
 - Water storage
 - Safe drinking water
 - Wetlands/watershed restoration



What is Sustainable Groundwater Management?

Now defined in Water Code §10721

Management and use of groundwater in a manner that can be maintained without causing undesirable results.

- * Chronic lowering of groundwater levels indicating a *significant and unreasonable* depletion of supply
- * Significant and unreasonable reductions in groundwater storage
- * Significant and unreasonable seawater intrusion
- * Significant and unreasonable degradation of water quality
- * Significant and unreasonable land subsidence
- * Significant and unreasonable adverse impacts on groundwater dependent ecosystems

Steps to Groundwater Sustainability

Step one:

- Local agencies must form local groundwater sustainability agencies (GSAs) within two years

Step two:

- GSA must adopt a groundwater sustainability plans (GSPs) by 2022

Step three:

- Once plan is in place GSA has 20 years to fully implement them and achieve sustainability

Groundwater Planning Process

Forming Groundwater Sustainability Agencies

(by June 2017)

- * Any *local agency* or combination of agencies overlying basin may elect to be a GSA
- * *Local agency* is any public agency that does at least one of the following responsibilities:
 - * Water supply
 - * Water management
 - * Land use
- * Counties are the default GSA in “unmanaged” areas
- * Can be more than one GSA in basin
- * Public Process



Who is investigating a GSA in the Upper Ventura River Sub-basin?

- Ventura River Water District
- Meiners Oaks Water District
- Casitas Municipal Water District
- Ventura County Watershed Protection District
- City of Ventura



New *Groundwater Sustainability Plans*

Plan Requirements

- * 50-year planning horizon; 20 years to reach sustainability
- * Measurable objectives/interim milestones to reach sustainability goal
- * Physical description of basin, including:
 - Groundwater levels
 - Water quality
 - Subsidence
 - Groundwater-surface water interaction
 - Historical and projected data on demands and supplies
- * Monitoring and management provisions
- * Description of how Plan affects other GSPs
- * GSP adoption is exempt from CEQA



New Management Authorities Under SGMA

Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) are empowered to:

- * Conduct studies
- * Register and monitor groundwater wells
- * Require reports of groundwater extraction
- * Regulate groundwater extractions
- * Implement capital projects to meet goals
- * Assess fees to cover cost of groundwater management
- * Some requirements do not apply to private well owners using less than two acre-feet per year for domestic use.



New Management Responsibilities Under SGMA

Groundwater Sustainability

Agencies (GSAs) are responsible for:

- * Maintaining basin groundwater sustainability
- * Submittal of annual reports to the Department of Water Resources including
 - * Groundwater elevation data
 - * Annual aggregated groundwater extraction data
 - * Surface water supply used and available for groundwater recharge or in-lieu use
 - * Total water use
 - * Change in groundwater storage
- * Conduct periodic review and assessment of the GSP, evaluating and responding to changing conditions
- * Conduct public hearings regarding GSP adoption or amendment



What About Water Rights?

- * Neither the SGMA nor Groundwater Sustainability Plans alter existing groundwater or surface water rights
- * However, like other property rights, water rights can be regulated
- * *“It is the intent of the Legislature to preserve the security of water rights in the state **to the greatest extent possible consistent with the sustainable management of groundwater.**”* [Water Code §10720.1]

What's Next?



- * Follow-up Legislation
- * Development of rules and guidelines by DWR
- * Stakeholder Meetings
- * Hearing for GSA Formation
- * GSA Preparation of Sustainability Plan
- * GSA implementation of Sustainability Plan



How to be involved

- * Sign up at the back table to be contacted for future meetings.
- * Specify your area of interest:
 - * Agricultural Irrigation
 - * Domestic Water
 - * Biological resources
 - * Everything



Let us hear from you.

Resources

- * Full version of SGMA statute and other resources
www.opr.ca.gov/docs/s_groundwater.php
- * DWR Groundwater Information Center
www.water.ca.gov/groundwater/
- * ACWA's Groundwater Sustainability Page
www.acwa.com/content/groundwater/groundwater-sustainability
- * California Water Foundation Information / Recommendations on Groundwater Sustainability
www.californiawaterfoundation.org