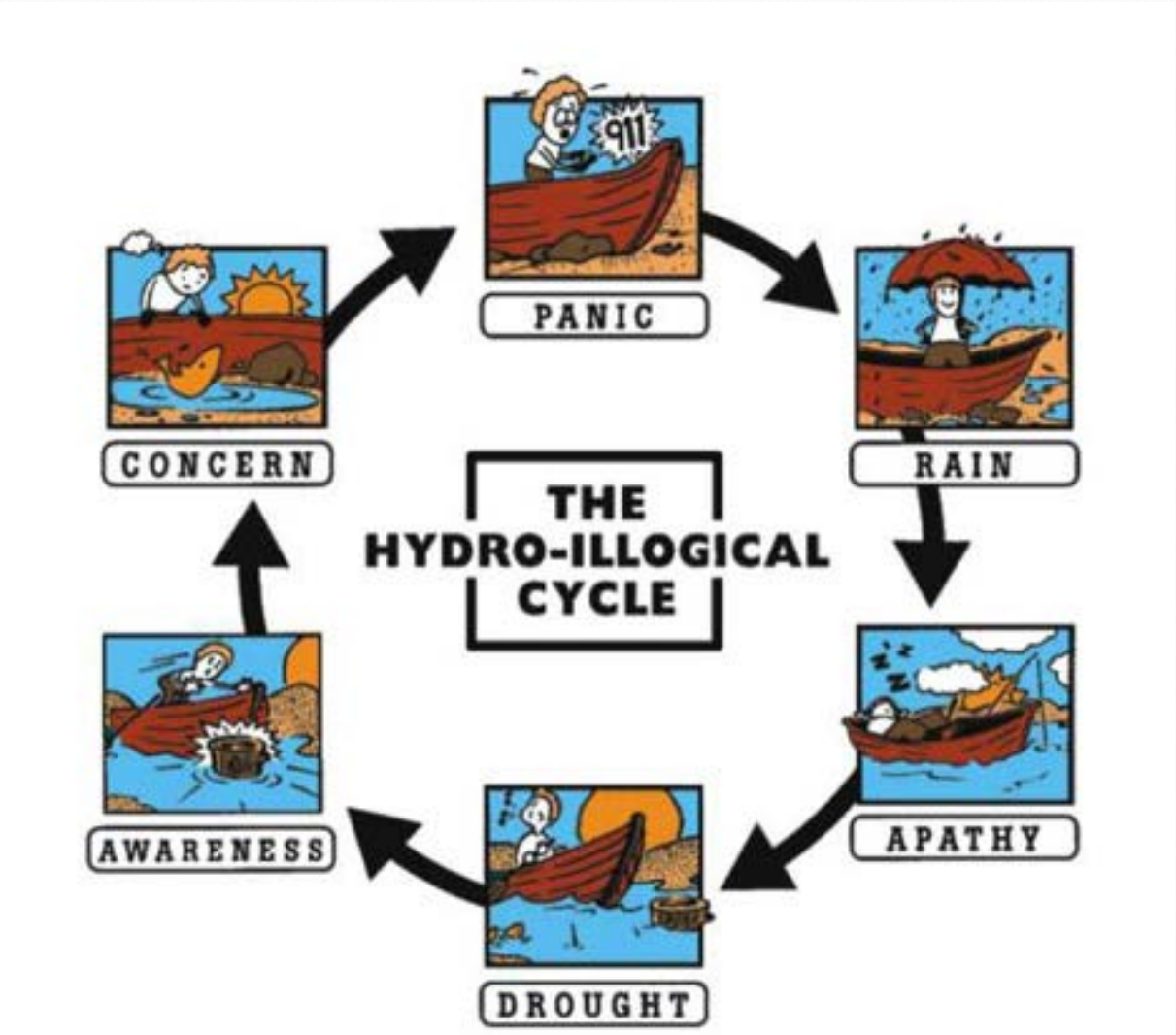
# Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA)


Ventura County
Groundwater Basins
1. Oxnard Plain Pressure
2. Fillmore
3. Santa Paula
4. Piru
5. Pleasant Valley
6. Mound
7 East Las Posas
8. West Las Posas
9. Oxnard Plain Forebay
10. South Las Posas
11. Lower Ventura River
12. Cuyama Valley
13. Mugu Forebay
14. Simi Valley
15. Thousand Oaks
16. Tapo/Gilibrand
17. Arroyo Santa Rosa
18. Ojai Valley
19. Lockwood Valley
20. Tierra Rejeda
21. Upper Ventura River
22. South Coast
23. Hungry Valley
24. Russell Valley
25. Conejo Valley
26. North Coast.
27. San Nicolas Island
28. Upper Ojai
29. Mutau Flat
30. Sherwood
31. Little Cuddy Valley
32. Las Virgennes Cyn.
Los Padres
National Forest
Matilija Lake
Lake Piru
Ojai
Lake Casitas
Fillmore
Santa Paula
San Buenaventura
Ventura Harbor
Moorpark
Simi Valley
Bard Reservoir
Pacific
Ocean
McGrath Lake
Edison Canal
Camarillo
Oxnard
Thousand Oaks
Port Hueneme
Port of Hueneme
Lake Sherwood
Westlake
Mugu Lagoon
San Nicolas Island
(62 miles offshore)
N
W
E
S
1:400,000
0 2.5 5 10
Miles
Legend
State Routes
Water Bodies
Streams

# Groundwater Conditions Update



# Legislation

"We have to learn to manage wisely water, energy, land and our investments," said Governor Brown. "That's why this is important."

The three bills signed by the Governor - create a framework for sustainable, local groundwater management for the first time in California history:

- Assembly Bill 1739 by Assemblymember Roger Dickinson (D-Sacramento)
- Senate Bill 1168 by Senator Fran Pavley (D-Agoura Hills)
- Senate Bill 1319 by Senator Fran Pavley (D-Agoura Hills)

The legislation allows local agencies to tailor sustainable groundwater plans to their regional economic and environmental needs.

"California will no longer be the only Western state that does not manage its groundwater," said Senator Pavley. "The cost of doing nothing is the biggest economic gamble. Thousands of homes and small farms cannot keep pace with the race to drill deeper and deeper wells. The bills take a balanced approach - they protect property rights and incentivize local control."

"Ensuring a sustainable supply of groundwater is a critical element of addressing the water challenges facing California," said Assemblymember Dickinson.

# Legislative Goals

- Set minimum standards for sustainable groundwater management
- Give local agencies tools needed to sustainably manage groundwater
- Increase groundwater storage
- Provide opportunity for local control
- Prevent deterioration of water quality
- Preserve existing water rights

# Groundwater Sustainability Agency Powers and Authorities

- Management of groundwater extractions
- Water well management
- Groundwater monitoring and reporting
- Replenishment activities
- Imposition of fees
- Enforcement
- Ongoing data collection, analyses, and management
- Preparation of a Groundwater Sustainability Plan

# Groundwater Sustainability Agency Who?

One or more local agencies that implement the provisions of SGMA.

A local public agency must have water supply, water management, or land use responsibilities within a groundwater basin.

# Groundwater Sustainability Agency Who? Continued

A water corporation regulated by the Public Utilities Commission or a mutual water company may participate in a groundwater sustainability agency through a memorandum of agreement or other legal agreement. The authority provided does not confer additional powers on a nongovernmental entity.

# Groundwater Sustainability Agency How?

A combination of local agencies may form a groundwater sustainability agency by using any of the following methods:

(1) A joint powers agreement.

(2) A memorandum of agreement or other legal agreement.

# Groundwater Sustainability Agency What?

A groundwater sustainability plan shall be developed and implemented for each medium or high priority basin by a groundwater sustainability agency to meet the sustainability goal established pursuant SGMA.

# Groundwater Sustainability Plan Requirements

- Historical data
- Groundwater levels, quality, subsidence
- Groundwater – Surface water interaction
- Historical and projected demands and supplies
- Recharge areas
- Measurable objectives
  - May exclude existing undesirable results
- Interim 5-year milestones
- Goal:  Sustainability within 20 years
  - Two 5-year extensions may be granted
- 50-year planning and implementation horizon
- Monitoring data

# Groundwater Sustainability Plan Requirements Continued

- Control of saline water intrusion
- Wellhead protection and recharge areas
- Contaminated groundwater migration
- Well abandonment and destruction program
- Replenishment
- Conjunctive use
- Underground storage
- Efficiency measures
- Relations with state and federal regulators
- Coordination with land use agencies
- Impacts on ecosystems

*Collaboration with appropriate local agencies required

# Groundwater Sustainability Plan
## Key Components

Sustainable Yield

Groundwater Allocation

Alternative Supplies

# Sustainable Yield

- Sustainable yield – maximum that can be extracted without causing undesirable result
  - Calculated over "base period representative of long-term conditions"
  - Compare "safe yield" – condition when average annual extractions are equal to, or less than, average annual recharge

# Undesirable Result

- Undesirable result
  - Chronic lowering of groundwater levels
    - Allows for overdraft during period of drought if offset by increased storage during other periods
  - Significant and unreasonable:
    - Reduction of groundwater storage
    - Seawater intrusion
    - Degraded water quality
    - Subsidence
    - Adverse impacts on surface water

# Groundwater Allocation

To control groundwater extractions by regulating, limiting, or suspending extractions from individual groundwater wells or extractions from groundwater wells in the aggregate.

# Beneficial Uses and Users

(a) Holders of overlying groundwater rights, including:

(1) Agricultural users.

(2) Domestic well owners.

(b) Municipal well operators.

(c) Public water systems.

(d) Local land use planning agencies.

(e) Environmental users of groundwater.

# Beneficial Uses and Users - Continued

(f) Surface water users, if there is a hydrologic connection between surface and groundwater bodies.

(g) The federal government, including, but not limited to, the military and managers of federal lands.

(h) California Native American tribes.

(i) Disadvantaged communities, including, but not limited to, those served by private domestic wells or small community water systems.

# Groundwater Supply

- Transport, reclaim, purify, desalinate
- Purchase, transfer, deliver or exchange
- Conserve, store, spread or replenish
- Acquire lands or other property, facilities, and services
- Supply, produce, treat and distribute
- Appropriate and acquire:
  - Surface water or groundwater rights
  - Import surface water or groundwater
  - Conserve and store that water within or outside the County

# Regulatory Fees

- May be imposed prior to GSP adoption
- May be used to fund GSP preparation and other costs of sustainability program
- May include permit fees and other regulatory fees

# Extraction Fees

- Available only if GSP adopted
- May be used for: (1) acquisition, operation and maintenance of facilities, and (2) acquisition, treatment, production and distribution of water
- No requirement that fees be uniform
- Proposition 218 requirements

# Key Dates

| | |
|---|---|
| • January 1, 2015 | Sustainable Groundwater Management Act goes into effect |
| • January 31, 2015 | Basins to be categorized as high, medium, or low priority |
| • June 1, 2016 | DWR adopts regulations for evaluating GSPs and implementation efforts |
| • Dec. 31, 2016 | DWR estimate of water available for replenishment |
| • January 1, 2017 | DWR publishes best management practices for sustainable groundwater management |

# Key Dates Continued

- June 30, 2017 — Last day to file notice of intent to become GSA
- January 1, 2020 — Last day to adopt GSP for medium and high priority basins with overdraft
- January 1, 2022 — Last day to adopt GSP for all other medium and high priority basins
- January 1, 2040 — Last day to achieve sustainability