



Sustainable Groundwater Management Act

SGMA

Paso Robles Groundwater Subbasin

February 23, 2017

www.slocounty.ca.gov

PASO ROBLES GROUNDWATER BASIN

FEBRUARY 23, 2017

Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA)

COURTNEY HOWARD, COUNTY WATER RESOURCES DIVISION MANAGER

CAROLYN BERG, COUNTY SENIOR WATER RESOURCES ENGINEER

DANE MATHIS, CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES (DWR)

SAM BOLAND-BRIEN, STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD (SWRCB)



www.slocounty.ca.gov

Tonight's Public Forum

- Introductory Remarks
- Presentations
- Q&A
- Comment Period



Why are we here?



Why are we here?

- Keep **you** informed:
 - New State law with rapid deadlines
 - Local collaboration & path forward
- Provide an opportunity:
 - Hear moderated Q&A
 - Express thoughts or concerns on SGMA

Thanks for coming today!

- Sign in & sign up for email list: www.slocountywater.org/sgma
- Submit questions throughout
- Pick up informational handouts
- Will post presentations & audio recording online



Our volunteers & moderator League of Women Voters



THROUGHOUT PRESENTATIONS: SUBMIT YOUR QUESTIONS

SGMA Compliance
&
State Enforcement

GSAs
&
GW Management

GSPs
&
Technical Studies

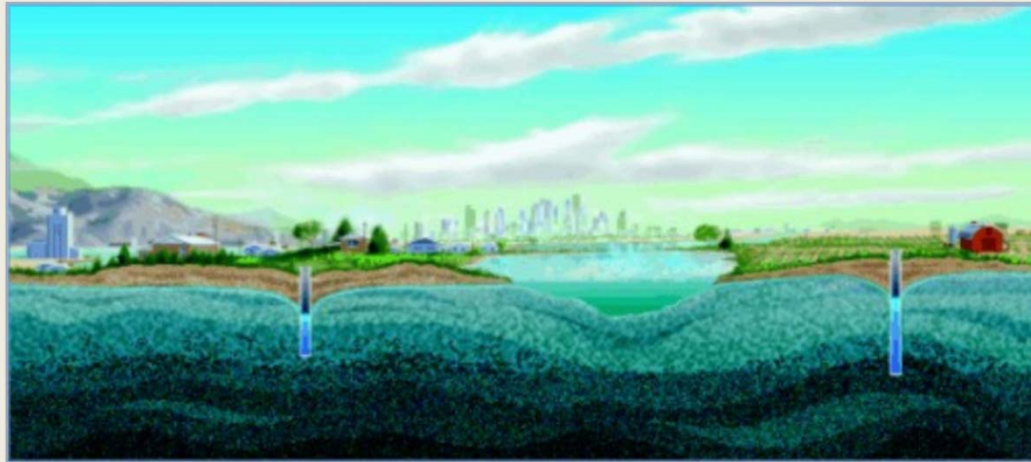
Management Actions
&
Projects



DWR PRESENTATION



Sustainable Groundwater Management



Paso Robles Subbasin Public Forum

February 2017



The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act of 2014

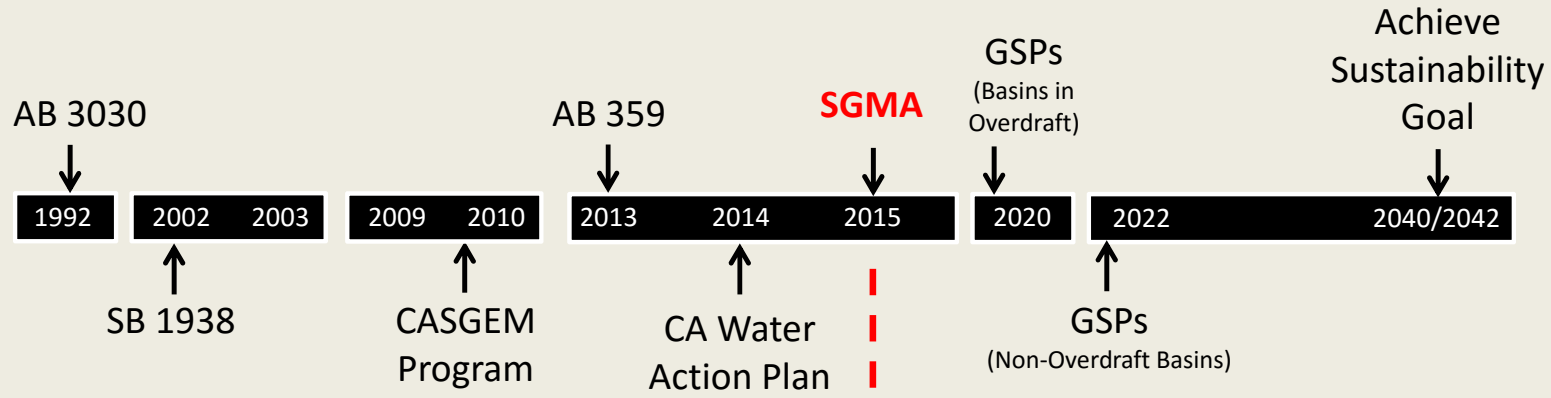


“...recognition that groundwater management in California is best accomplished locally.”



Background

California's Major Groundwater Milestones



Voluntary Groundwater Management

- Service Area Planning
- Variable Levels of Implementation
- Variable Authority
- Grant Incentives

Required Groundwater Management

- Entire Basin Planning
- Required Implementation
- New GSA Authorities
- State Backstop (SWRCB)



SGMA Overview

- Required for High- and Medium Priority Basins
- Empowers GSAs:
 - Register groundwater wells
 - Measure extractions
 - Manage extractions
 - Require reports
 - Assess fees
- Creates State “Backstop”
- Establishes “sustainability goal”



SGMA Activity

2015 and 2016

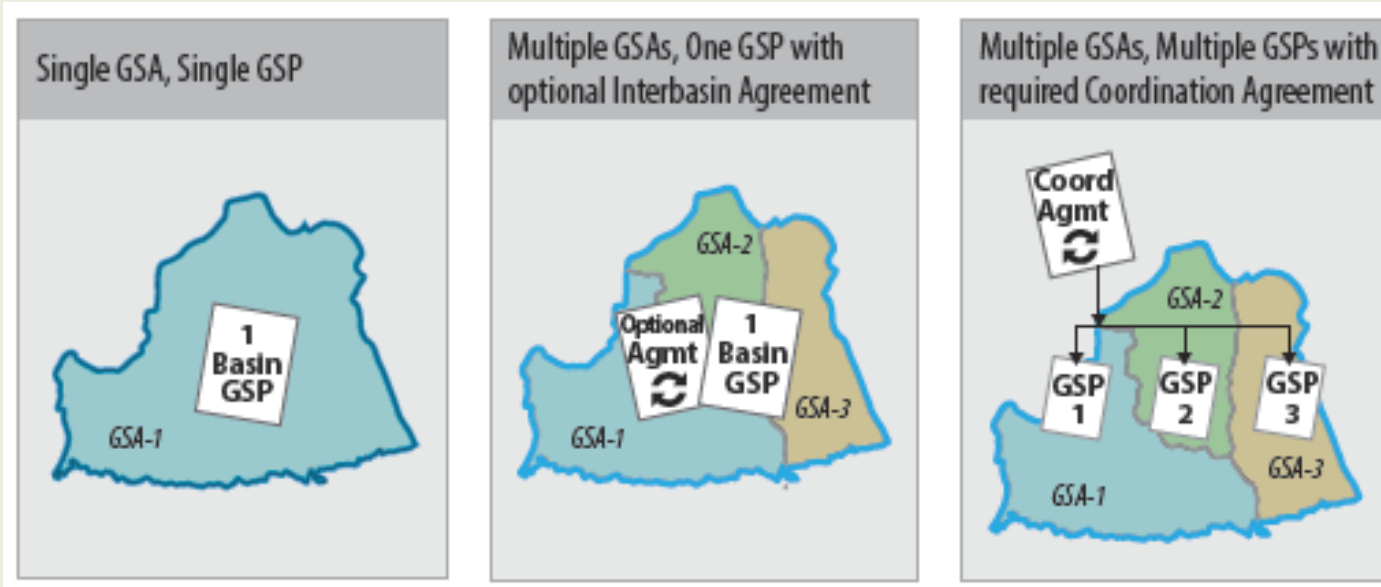
- ✓ **Initial Basin Prioritization:** §10723.4
 - Completed by January 31, 2015
- ✓ **Regulations for Modifying Groundwater Basin Boundaries:** §10722.2
 - Completed by January 1, 2016
- ✓ **Identification of Critically Overdrafted Basins:** §12924
 - Completed January 2016, Updated October 2016
- ✓ **Groundwater Sustainability Plan and Alternatives Regulations:** §10733.2
 - Completed May 18, 2016
- ✓ **Basin Boundary modification (Round 1)**
 - Completed October 11, 2016
- ✓ **Water Available for Replenishment:** §10729(c)
 - Due December 31, 2016

2017 and 2018

- ✓ **Bulletin 118:** §12924
 - ✓ Interim Update due by January 2017
 - Comprehensive Update due 2020
- ✓ **Best Management Practices:** §10729(d)
 - Due January 1, 2017
- **Revised Basin Prioritization**
 - Estimate summer 2017
- **Alternative Plan Reviews**
 - Begin January 2017
- **Groundwater Sustainability Agency Formation:** §10723
 - Due by June 30, 2017
- **Prop 1 – SGM Grant Program (Round 2)**
 - Summer 2017 (Tentative)
- **Basin Boundary Modification (Round 2)**
 - Early 2018 (Tentative)

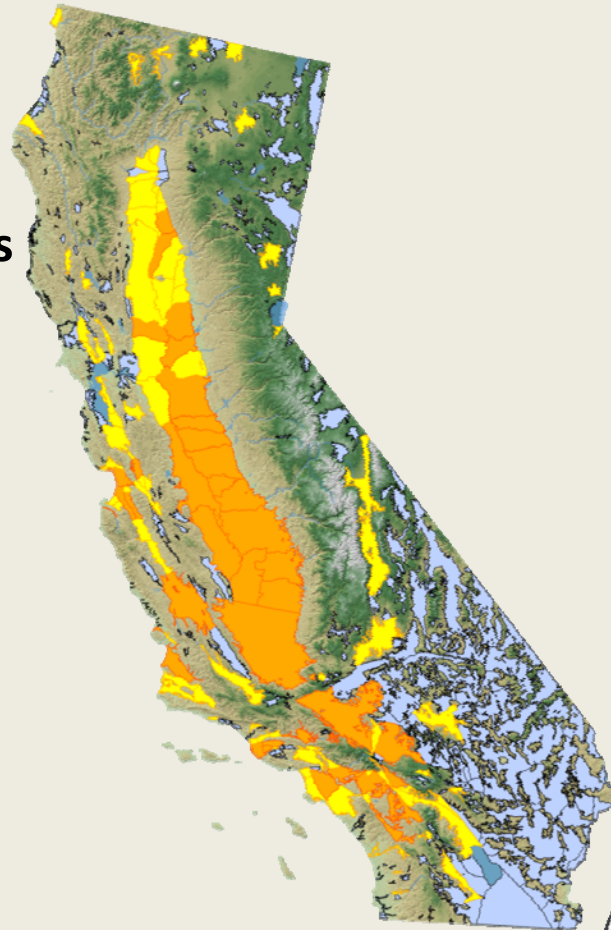


GSA/GSP options within a Basin



GSP Regulation Articles

1. Introductory Provisions
2. Definitions
3. Technical & Reporting Standards
4. Procedures
5. Plan Contents
6. Department Evaluation & Assessment
7. Annual Reports and Periodic Evaluations by the Agency
8. Interagency Agreements
9. Alternatives



Article 5. Plan Contents

1. Administrative Information

- § 354.4. General Information
- § 354.6. Agency Information
- § 354.8. Description of Plan Area
- § 354.10. Notice & Communication

2. Basin Setting

- § 354.14. Hydrogeologic Conceptual Model
- § 354.16. Groundwater Conditions
- § 354.18. Water Budget
- § 354.20. Management Areas

3. Sustainable Management Criteria







- § 354.24. Sustainability Goal
- § 354.26. Undesirable Results
- § 354.28. Minimum Thresholds
- § 354.30. Measureable Objectives

4. Monitoring Networks

- § 354.34. Monitoring Network
- § 354.36. Representative Monitoring
- § 354.38. Assessment & Improvement
- § 354.40. Reporting Monitoring Data to the Department

5. Projects and Management Actions

- § 354.44. Projects & Management Actions

Undesirable Results <i>Significant and Unreasonable</i>						
	Lowering GW Levels	Reduction of Storage	Seawater Intrusion	Degraded Quality	Land Subsidence	Surface Water Depletion

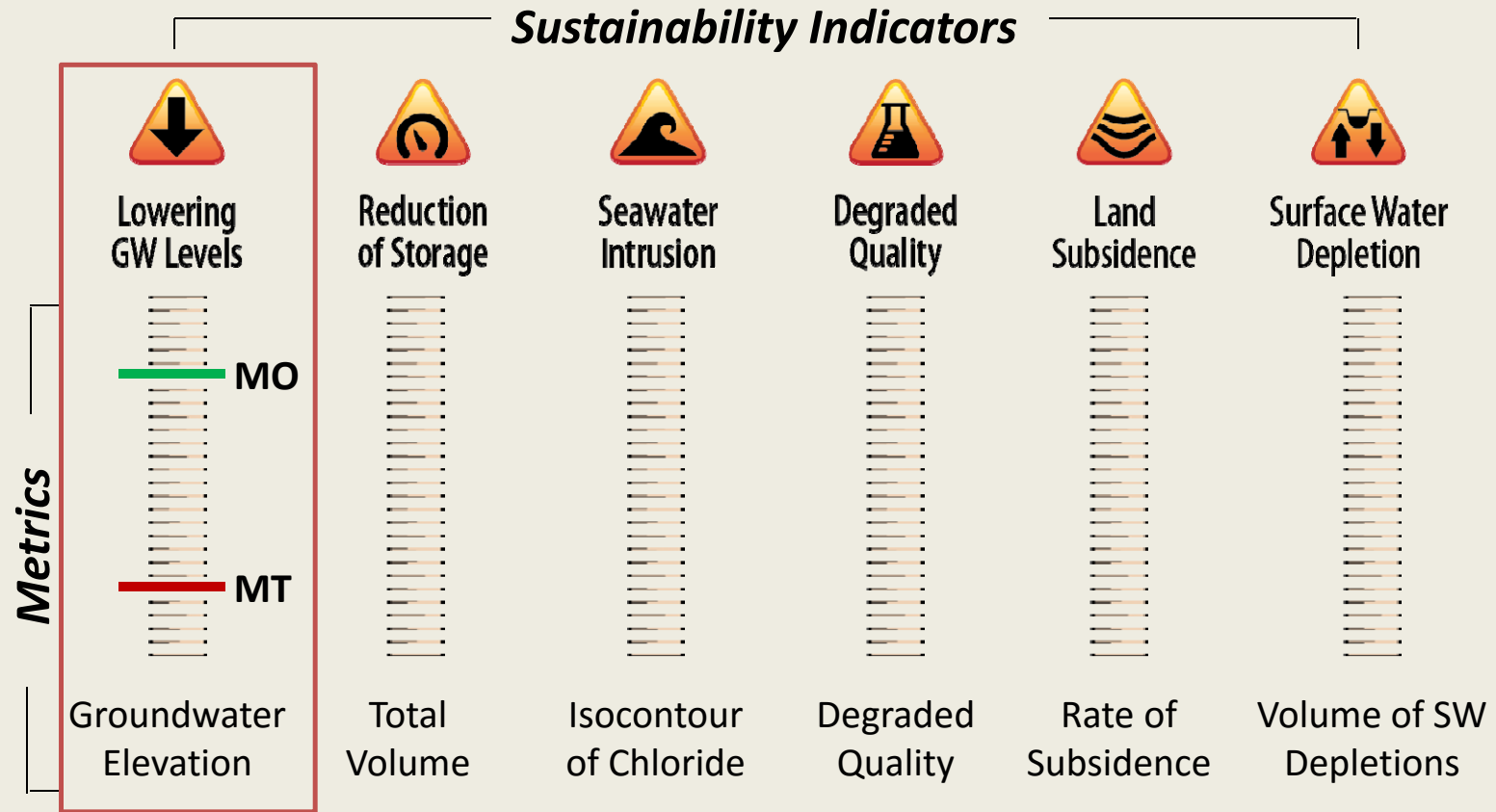
Sustainable Management Criteria

§ 354.24. Sustainability Goal

- A single sustainability goal for the basin
- Achieved within 20 years of GSP implementation
- Maintained without causing undesirable results



Minimum Threshold Metrics



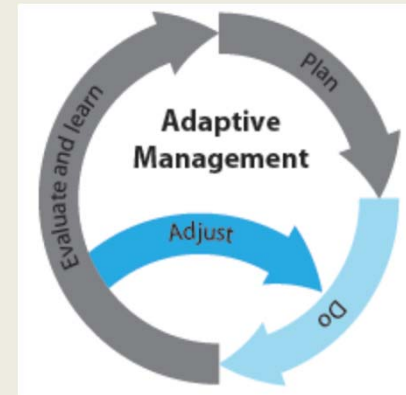
*Groundwater Elevations - can be used for multiple minimum thresholds

GSP – DWR Review and Compliance

- GSP Submittal – 60 day (min.) comment period
- DWR review within 2 years

Review Criteria

- Pass/Fail?
 - On time, complete, entire basin
- Substantial compliance?
 - Approved
 - Incomplete - Some deficiencies to correct
 - Inadequate



DWR & SGMA Resources

- **DWR SGMP Website**

www.water.ca.gov/groundwater/sgm/index.cfm

- **Subscribe to DWR SGMP Email List**

www.water.ca.gov/groundwater/sgm/subscribe.cfm



- **GIC Interactive Map (water level & subsidence maps)**

www.water.ca.gov/groundwater/MAP_APP/index.cfm


- **SGMA Water Management Planning Tool (boundaries map)**

www.water.ca.gov/groundwater/boundaries.cfm



SWRCB PRESENTATION



A photograph of a river with a pipe discharging water into it, surrounded by reeds and trees. The pipe is on the right side, and water is splashing out. The background shows a wide river and a line of trees under a clear blue sky.

State Water Resources Control Board
Sustainable Groundwater Management Act

**The
State
Backstop**

In an average year,
more than

30%

of California's
supply comes from
GROUNDWATER

In dry years,
up to

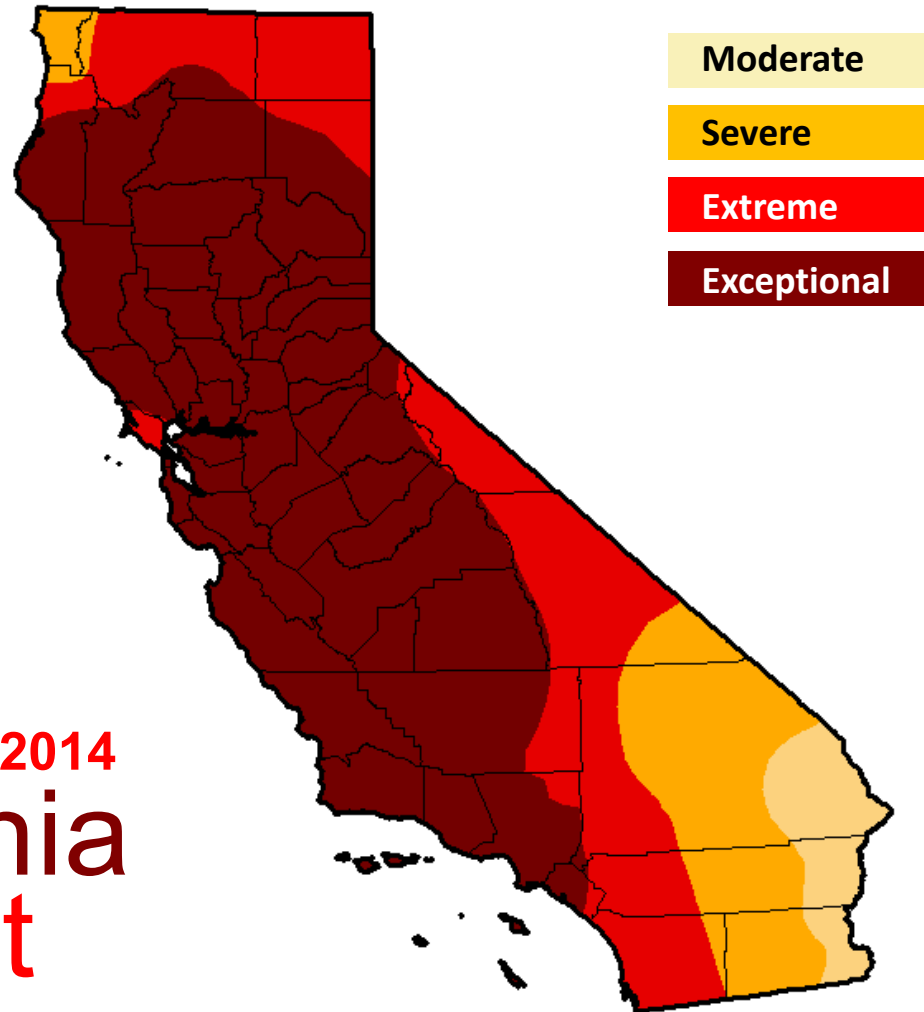
60%

of California's
supply comes from
GROUNDWATER

80%

of Californians
rely on groundwater

September 16, 2014
**California
drought**

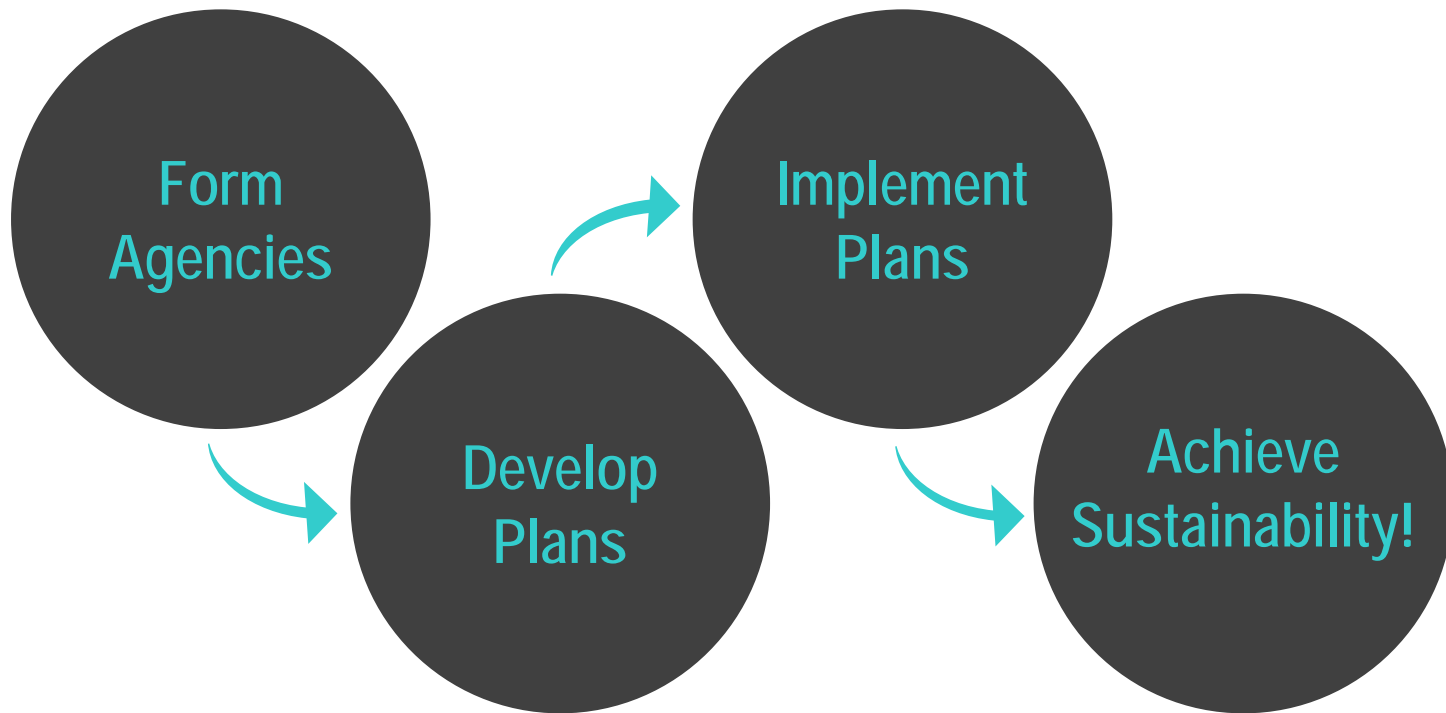


Source: California Drought Monitor

“ Groundwater **management**
in California is best
accomplished **locally.** ”

Governor Jerry Brown

SGMA



“ [W]here a local groundwater sustainability agency is not managing its groundwater sustainably, **the state needs to protect the resource** until...a local groundwater sustainability agency can sustainably manage the groundwater basin.”

California Legislature

Board Backstop Basics

- 1 Board only steps in when local efforts fail.
- 2 Temporarily protects the basin until locals come up-to-speed.
- 3 Backstop is triggered by SGMA deadlines.



Triggering **the** Backstop



Jul 1, 2017 NO GSA



Feb 1, 2020 NO/POOR PLAN & CRITICAL OVERDRAFT

BASIN



GSA



Unmanaged pumpers **REPORT** to the **BOARD**



Unmanaged pumpers **REPORT** to the **BOARD**

Board may designate **ENTIRE** basin **PROBATIONARY**

Groundwater extraction reports

Pumpers report directly to the Board annually.

- 1 Well location and capacity**
- 2 Monthly extraction volumes**
- 3 Place and purpose of use**

De Minimis users are exempt.

Probationary groundwater BASIN



Opportunity to fix issues



Board investigations



All pumpers report



May require meters

De Minimis users are not exempt.



Corrective
Actions

Schedule

Interim
PLAN

Monitoring
Plan

CEQA

Physical Solutions

Increase supply

Storm water capture

Develop local supply

Water imports

Desalination

Demand Management

Decrease demand

Pumping restrictions

***most likely
corrective action**

ENFORCEMENT

Willful Misstatement

Misdemeanor

\$1,000 & 6 months imprisonment

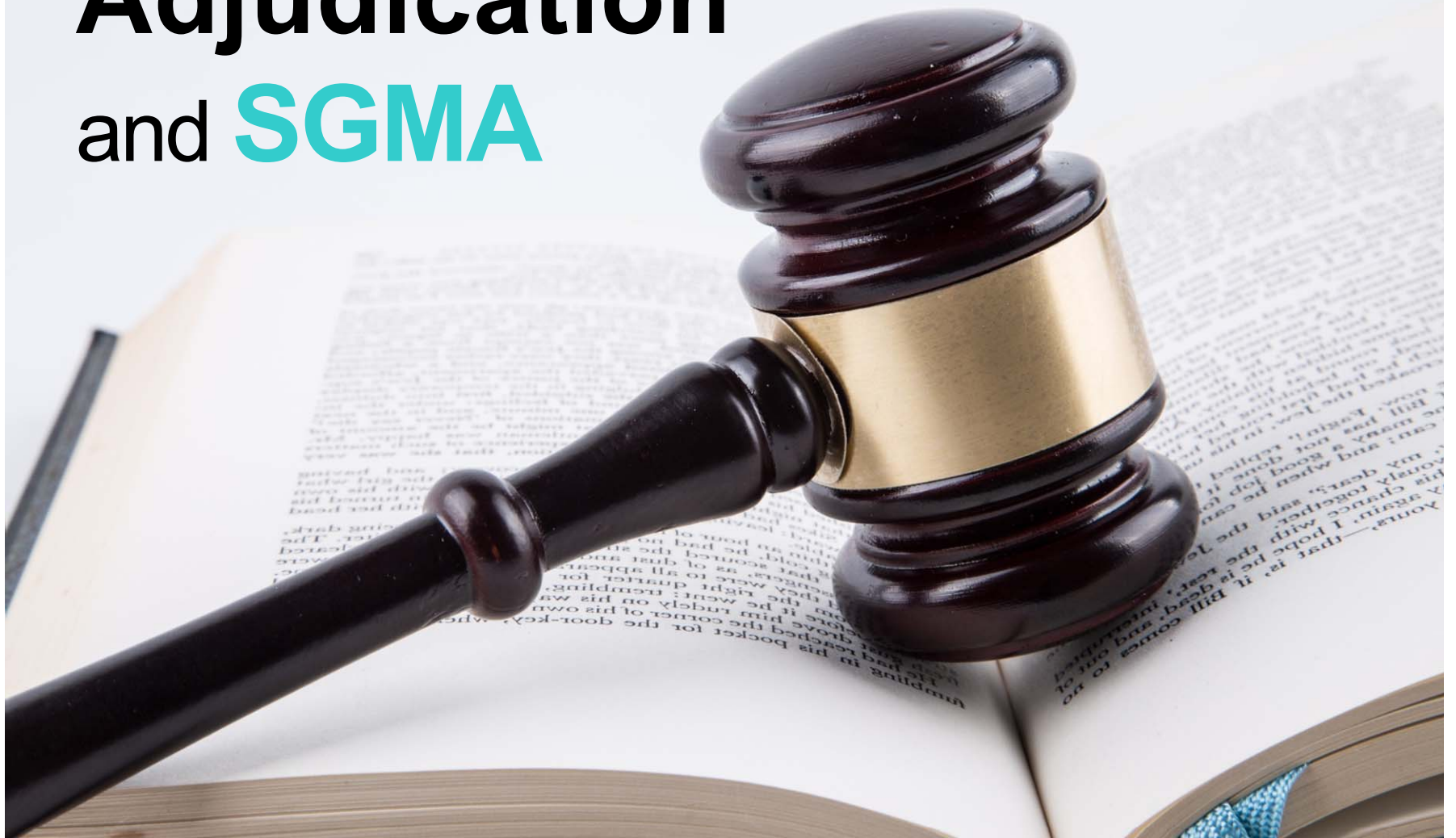
Material Misstatement or Device Tampering

\$25,000 + \$1000 per day

Failure to File

\$1,000 + \$500 per day

Adjudication and **SGMA**



Adjudication PROCESS



State Backstop Applies

“California will no longer be the only Western state that does not manage its groundwater. The cost of doing nothing is the biggest economic gamble.”

Senator Fran Pavley

Sam Boland-Brien

sboland-brien@waterboards.ca.gov

916-322-9633

**Groundwater Management
Program**

www.waterboards.ca.gov/gmp

COUNTY PRESENTATION



Local Implementation of SGMA

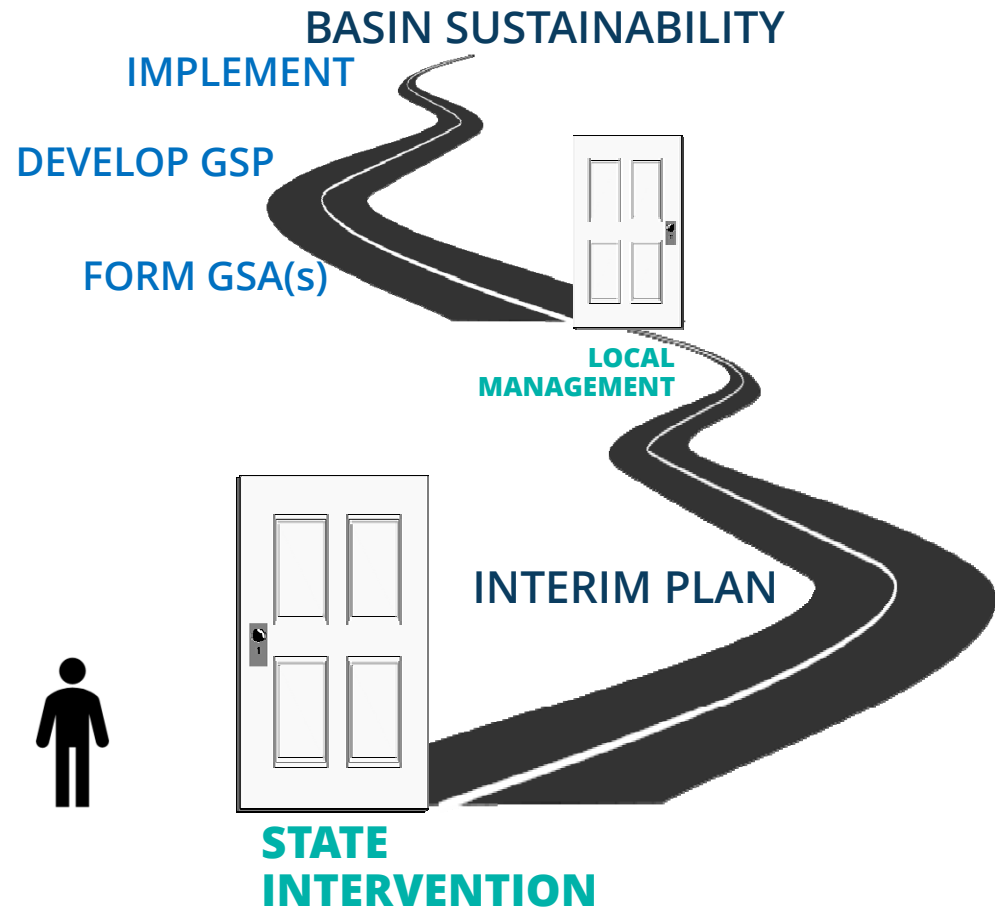
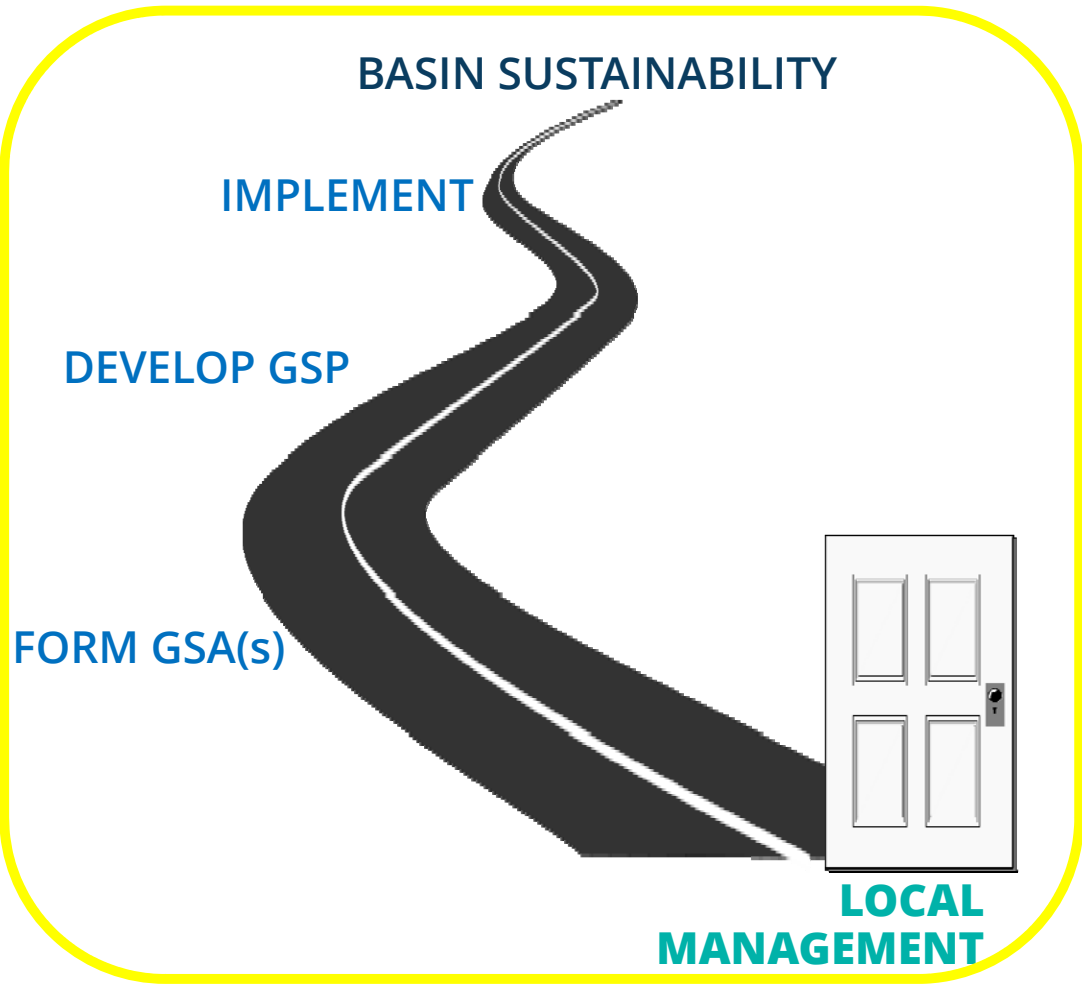
Forming Groundwater Sustainability Agencies by **June 30 , 2017**

- Carolyn Berg, P.E., County Senior Water Resources Engineer

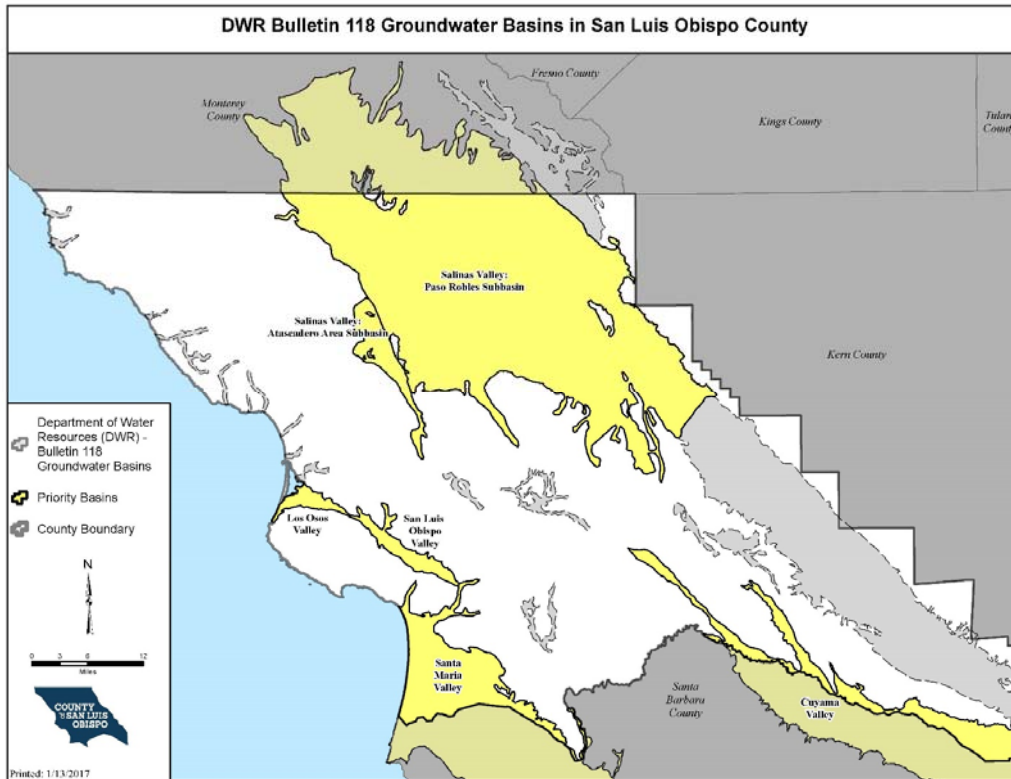
Developing a Groundwater Sustainability Plan by **January 31, 2020**

- Courtney Howard, P.E., County Water Resources Division Manager





SGMA: Where does the law apply locally?



County's SGMA Strategy: Facilitate GSA Formation

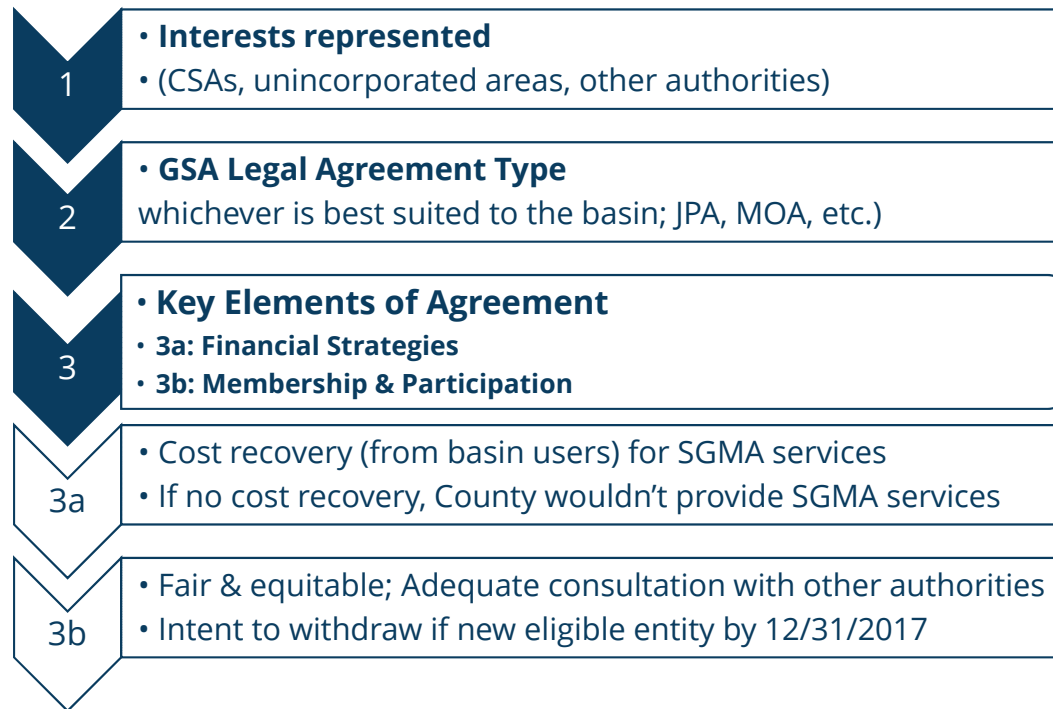
January 13, 2015 & May 24, 2015

*Establish **community focused GSAs** based on **cooperative interagency and stakeholder relationships** in order to **comply with SGMA requirements***



Addendum to County's SGMA Strategy

November 1, 2016



Forming Groundwater Management Entities

- Formed by one or more agencies

- ❖ Local public agencies with:

Water supply
responsibility

Land use
responsibility

Water
management
responsibility

- ❖ Allows participation by mutual water companies or PUC-regulated water corporations
 - ❖ MOA or JPA

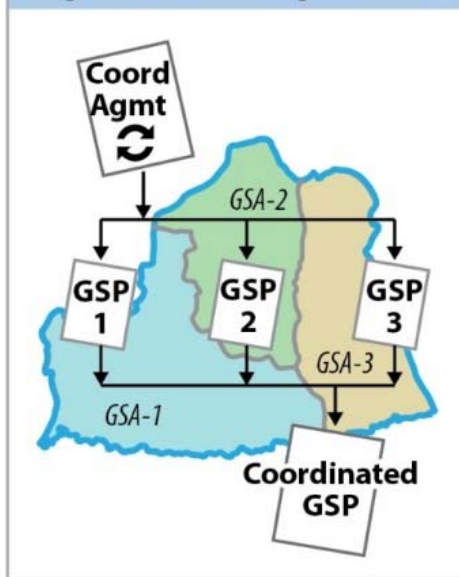
- Requires coordination between GSAs

GSA(s)
Groundwater
Sustainability
Agency(ies)



Groundwater Sustainability Agency Coverage Options

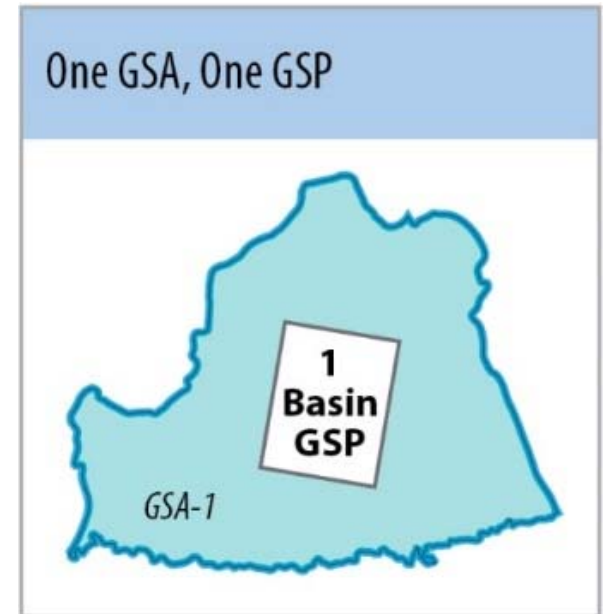
Multiple GSAs, Multiple GSPs with single Coordination Agreement



Multiple GSAs, One GSP with single Coordination Agreement



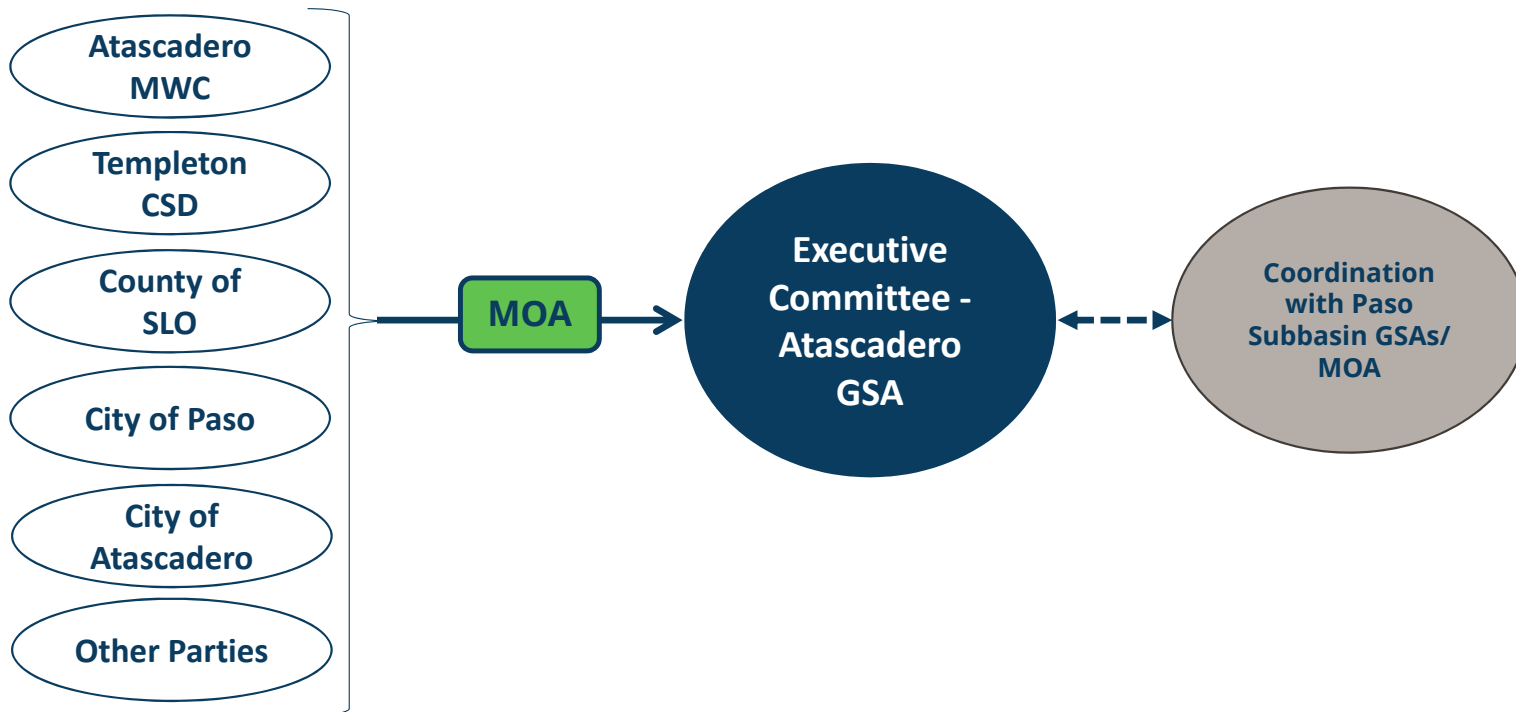
One GSA, One GSP



(Salinas Valley) Paso & Atascadero Subbasins

GSA Deadline: 6/30/2017

GSP Deadline: 1/31/2020



Developing a Groundwater Sustainability Plan



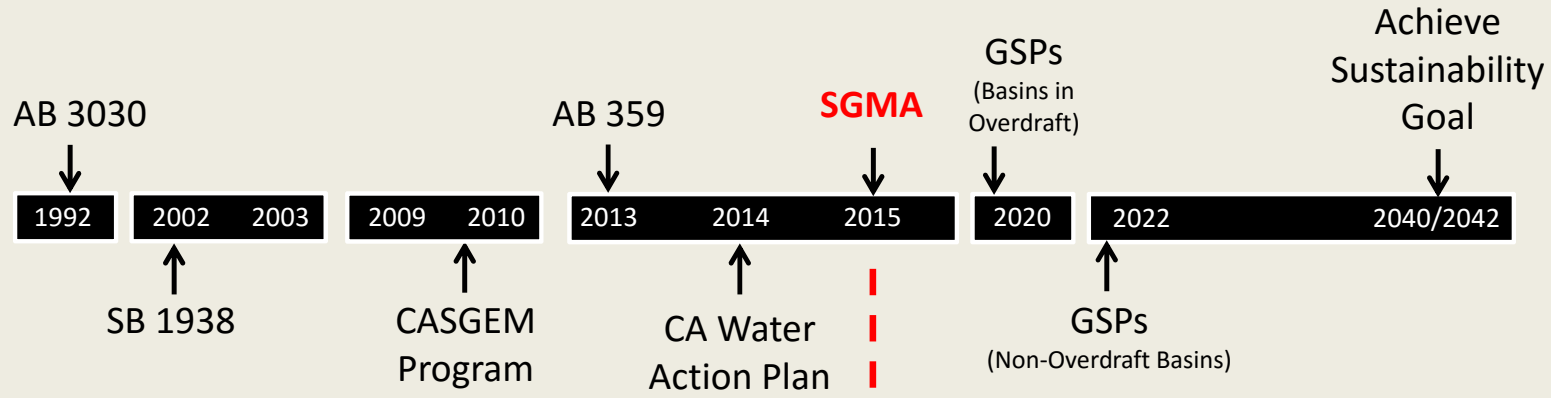
Prevent "undesirable results"
"Significant" & "Unreasonable"

- Lowering of Groundwater Levels
- Reduction in Groundwater Storage
- Water Quality Degradation
- Land Subsidence
- Depletions of Surface Water



(Paso Basin) Background

California's Major Groundwater Milestones



Voluntary Groundwater Management

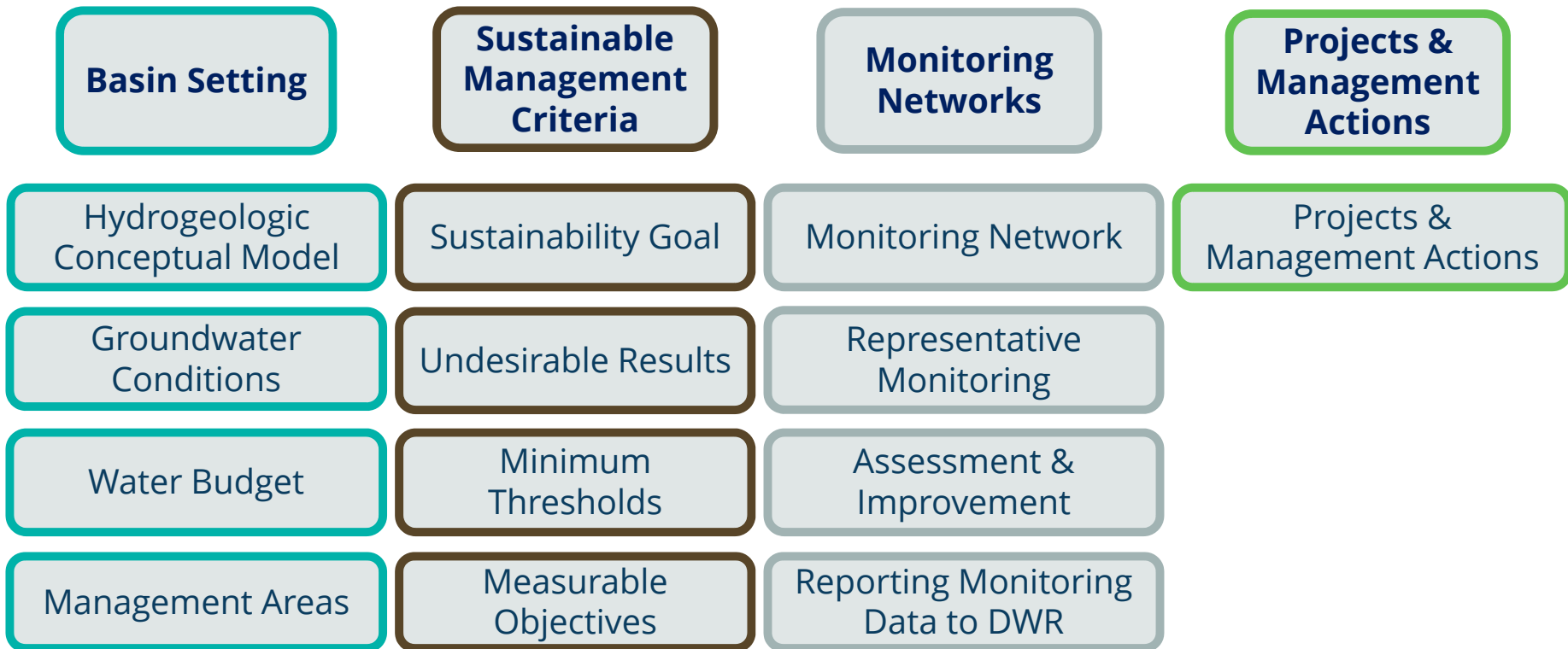
- Service Area Planning
- Variable Levels of Implementation
- Variable Authority
- Grant Incentives

Required Groundwater Management

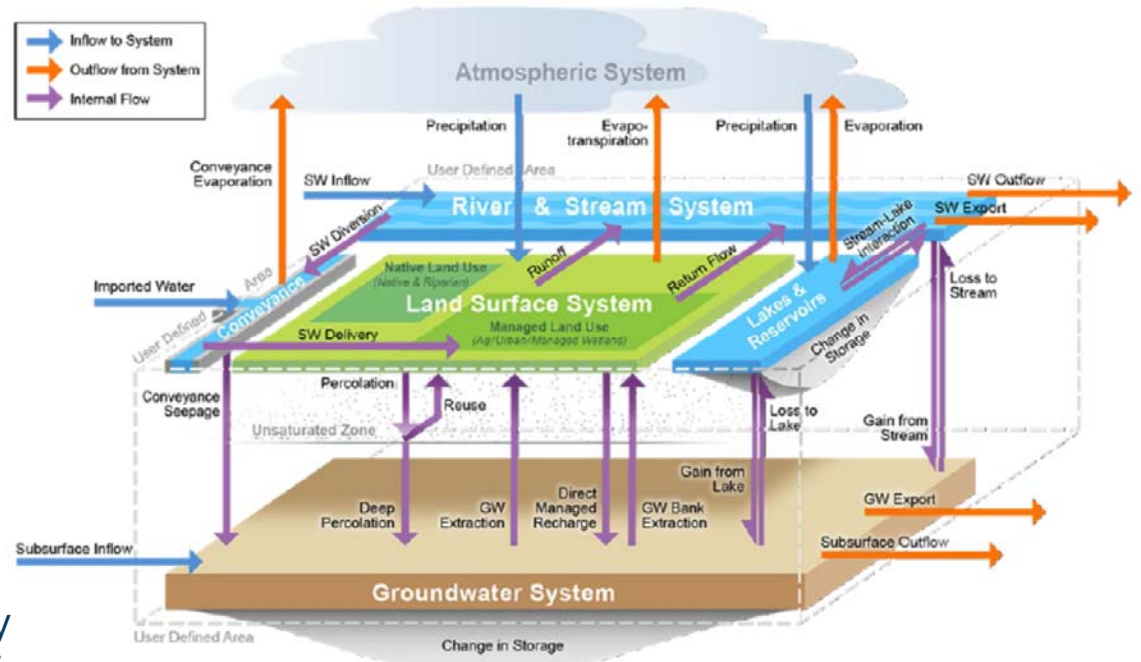
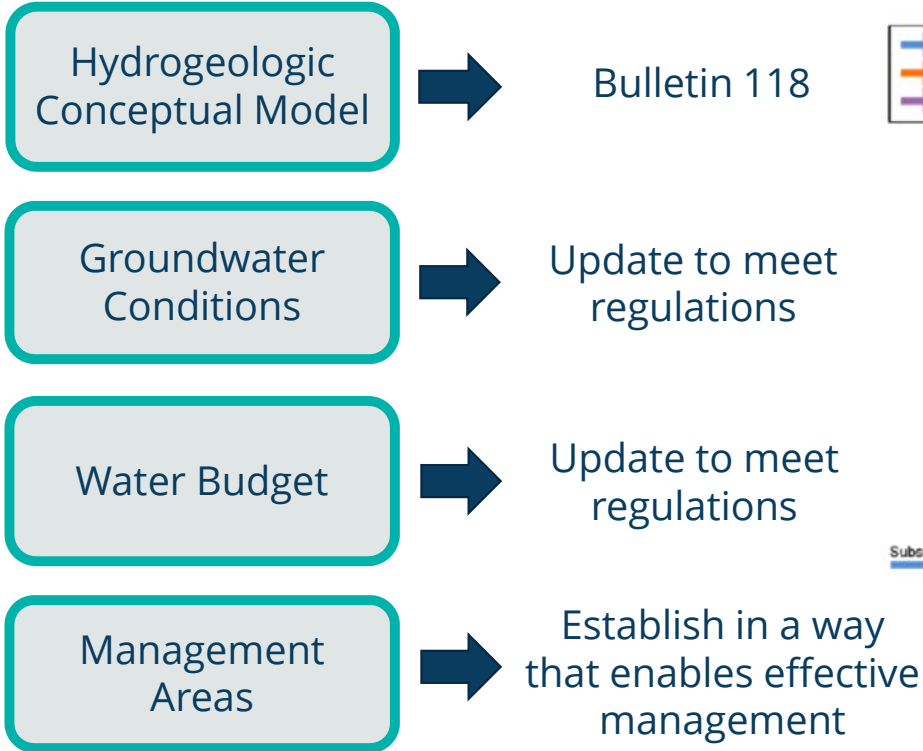
- Entire Basin Planning
- Required Implementation
- New GSA Authorities
- State Backstop (SWRCB)



Paso Basin GSAs Committee "Scope of Work"

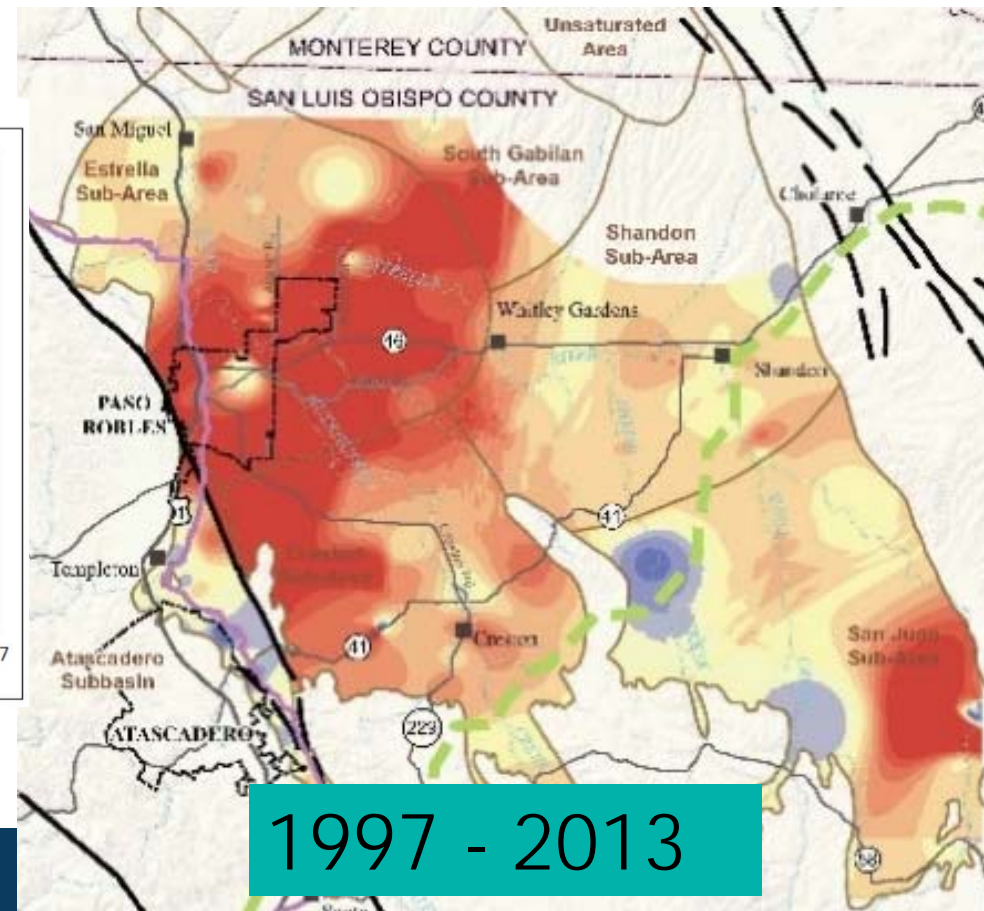
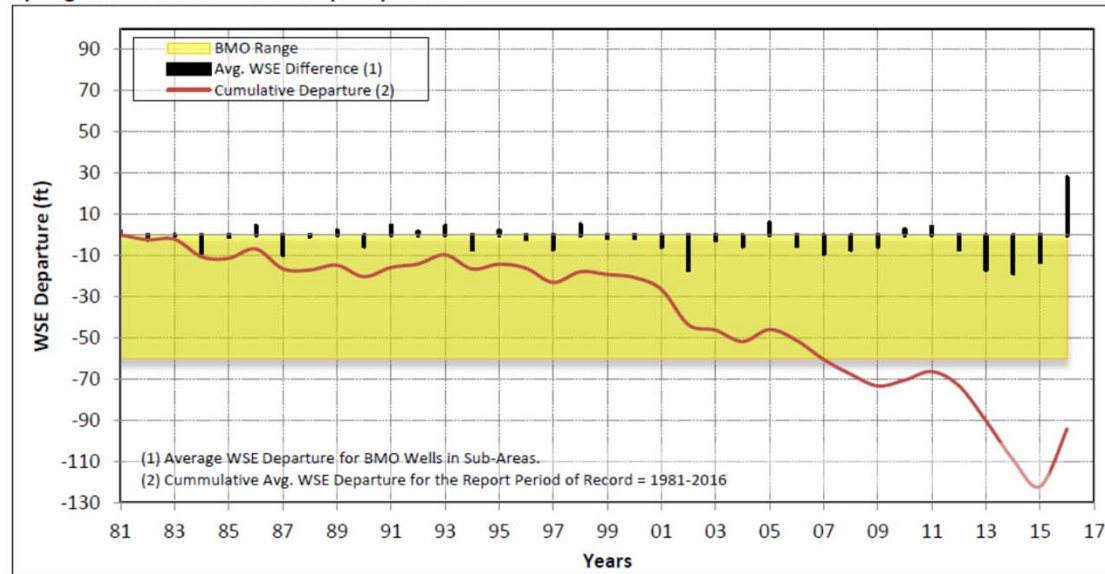


Updating the Basin Setting



Updating the Basin Setting

Spring Water Surface Elevation (WSE) Trends



Deciding on Sustainable Management Criteria

Sustainability Goal



Basin-wide

Undesirable Results



Each of the five metrics

Minimum Thresholds



Each of the five metrics

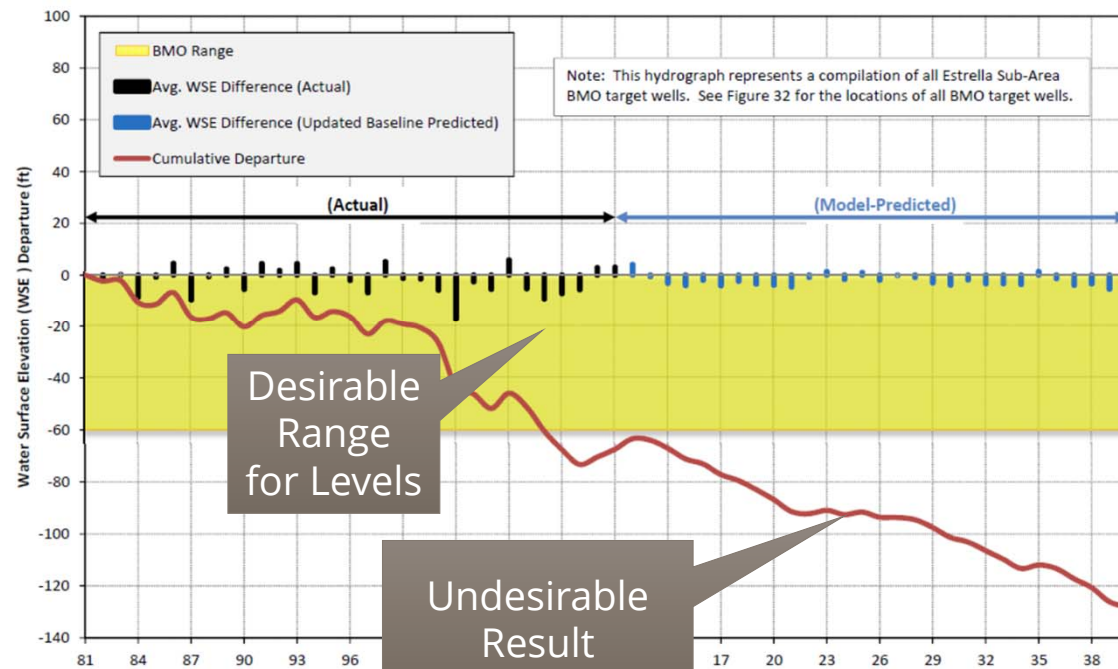
Measurable Objectives



Milestones to achieve on the path to sustainability

Needs

- Existing Deficiencies
- General Plan
- Resiliency



Establishing an Adequate Monitoring Network

Monitoring Network



Basin-wide and comparable to standards

Representative Monitoring



Each of the five metrics

Assessment & Improvement

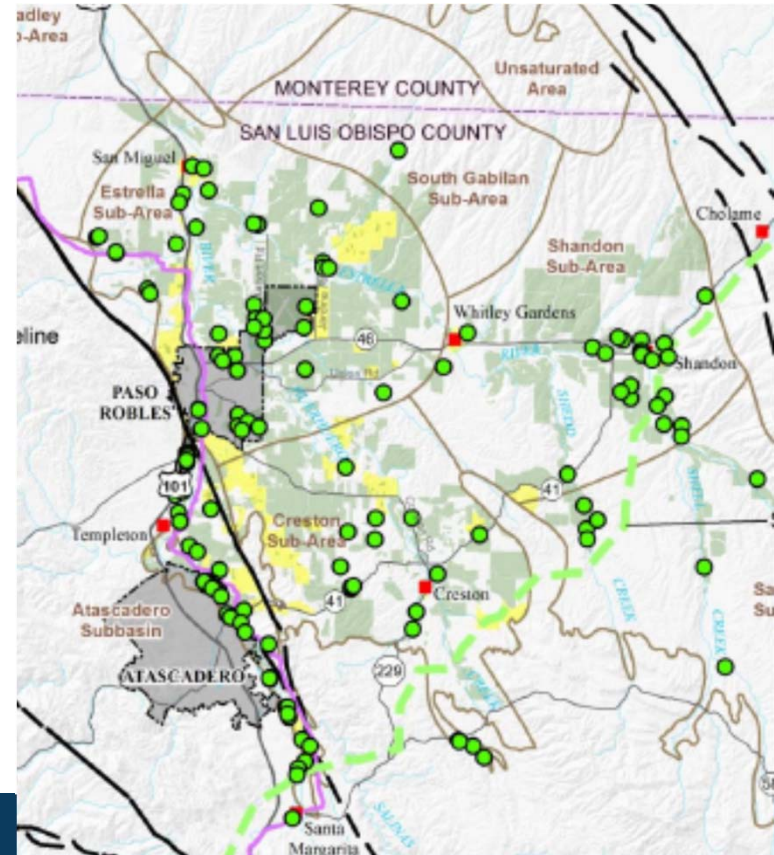


Plan to fill data gaps

Reporting Monitoring Data to DWR



Data management and reporting system

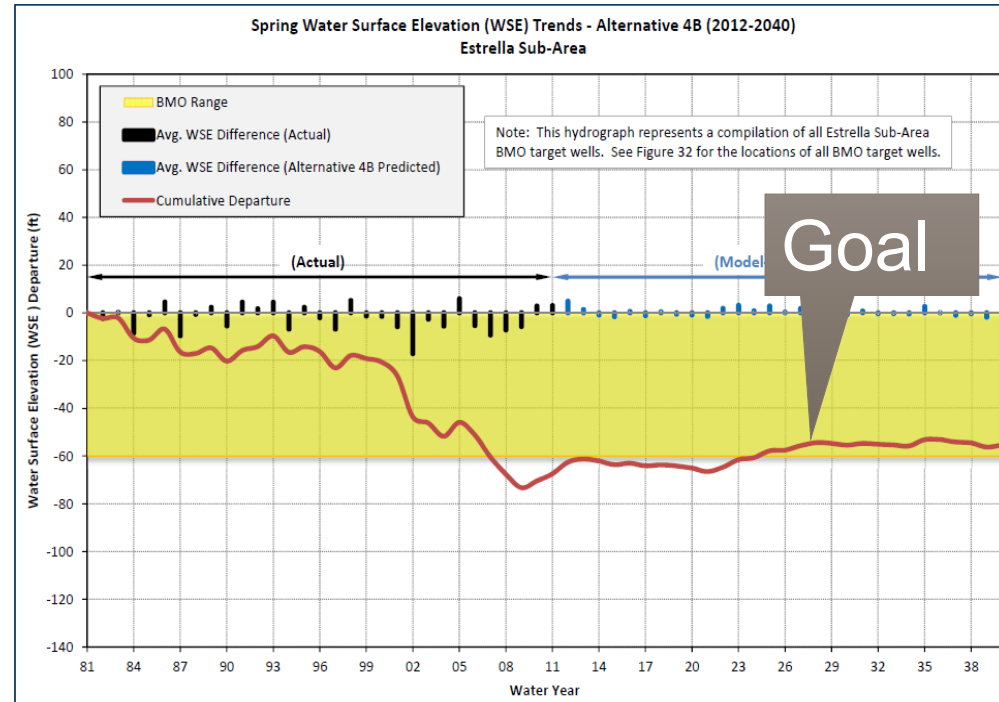


Deciding what Actions to Take

Projects & Management Actions



Demand Management
Supply Enhancement
Combination



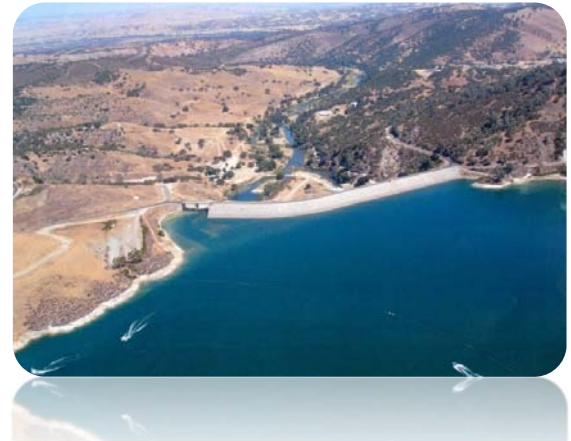
GSP Management Actions: Demand Management

- Water Use Efficiency Programs (urban, rural, ag/ irrigation)
- Ordinances:
 - Restrictions on new well installation (spacing, interference)
 - Limitations on groundwater transfers
 - Land use requirements
 - Offset requirements
 - Extraction management



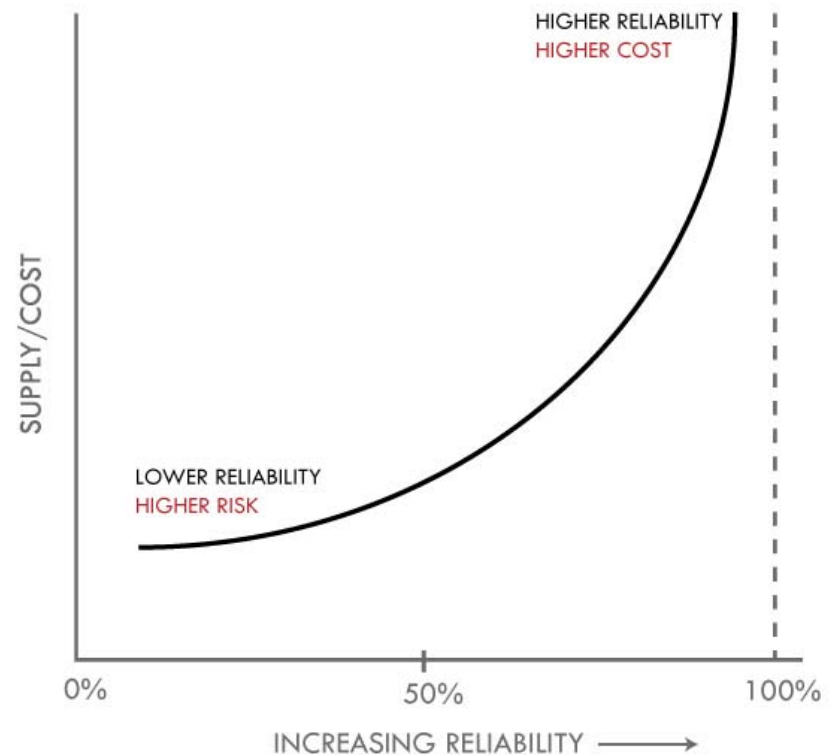
GSP Management Actions: Supply Enhancement

- Stormwater management projects (wet year supplies)
- Purchase excess surface water for conjunctive use projects
 - State Water, Nacimiento Reservoir
- Water treatment
- Recycled water



Tough Decisions Ahead

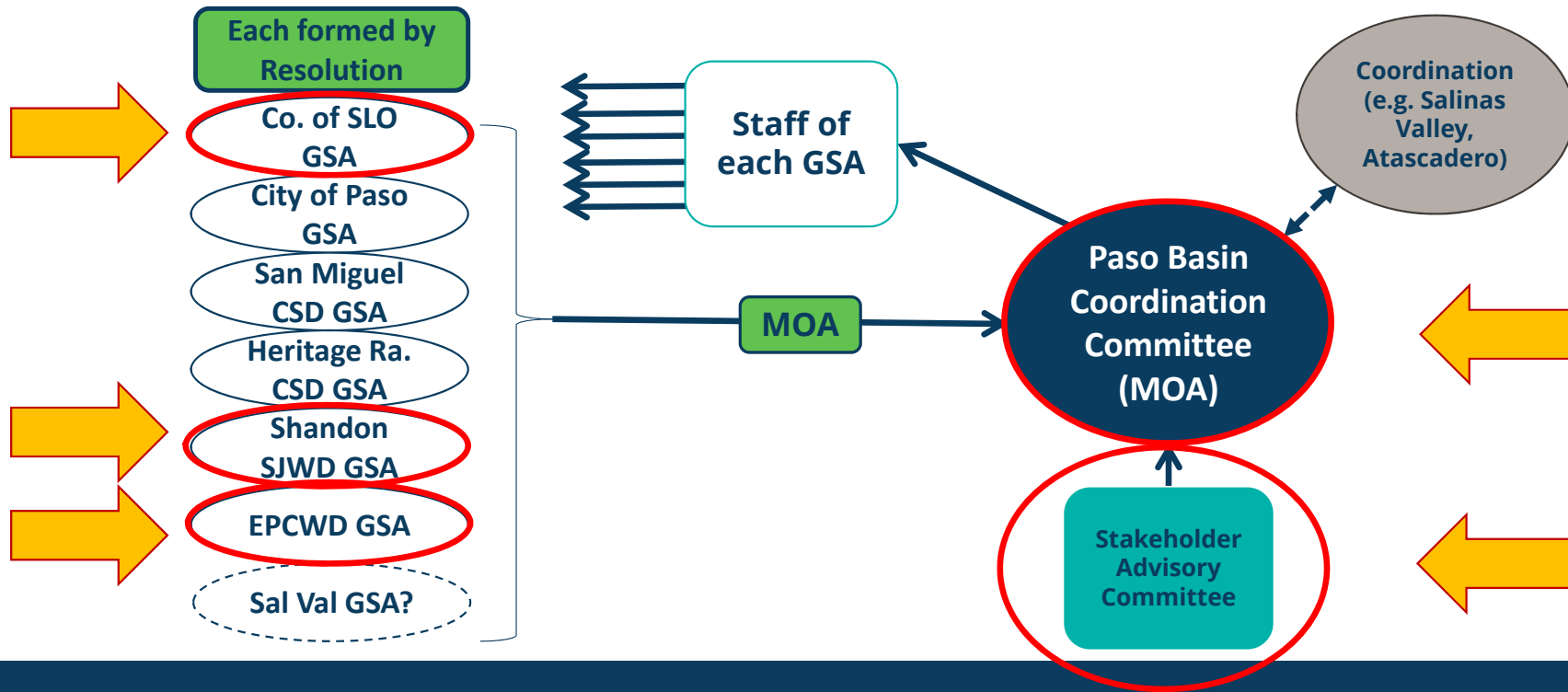
- What's the likelihood of success?
 - Physical
 - Economic (direct and indirect)
 - Social / Political
 - Environmental
- How do you prioritize alternatives?
 - “Low hanging fruit”
 - Long term solutions



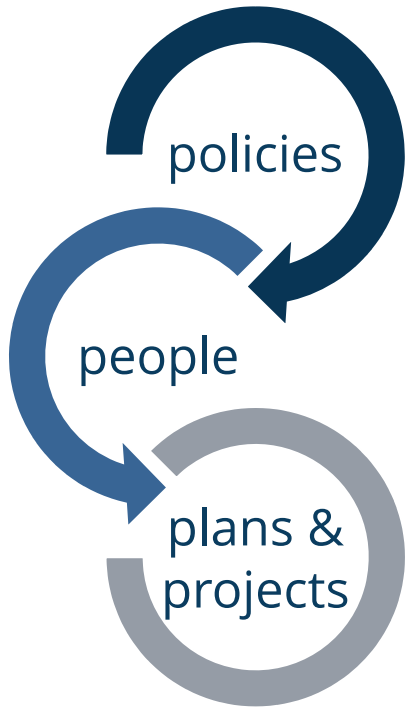
How to Engage



How do YOU engage in SGMA compliance?



Next Steps



- **Update to County Board – March 7th**
- **Establish various GSAs:**
 - SMCSD GSA formation hearing – Completed
 - City of Paso GSA formation hearing – Completed
 - HRCSD GSA formation hearing – In process
 - SSJWD formation vote – In process
 - EPCWD LAFCO formation hearing – **April 6th**
 - County as GSA formation hearing – (tentative) **May 2nd**

Stay informed: www.slocountywater.org/sgma



Paso Robles Groundwater Subbasin: Resources and Opportunities to Engage

Opportunities for Input & Information:

- ▶ Read SGMA & regulations
- ▶ Visit: www.slocountywater.org/sgma
- ▶ Join email lists – County, DWR
- ▶ Provide input to GSAs & Coordination Committee at key decision points
- ▶ Volunteer on advisory committee(s) or attend meetings
- ▶ Help to identify critical stakeholders
- ▶ Attend basin outreach events



WELCOME OUR PANELISTS

PANEL DISCUSSION

***SUBMIT YOUR QUESTIONS**

SGMA Compliance
&
State Enforcement

GSAs
&
GW Management

GSPs
&
Technical Studies

Management Actions
&
Projects



COMMENT PERIOD

***PLEASE LIMIT COMMENT TO 1 -2 MINUTES**



THANK YOU!

For more information, join our email list:
www.slocountywater.org/sgma

