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### Sustainable Groundwater Management Act

- Passed in 2014
- First comprehensive groundwater legislation in California
- Focus on local/regional groundwater sustainability
- Mitigation and/or prevention of 6 undesirable impacts

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

**RMC**

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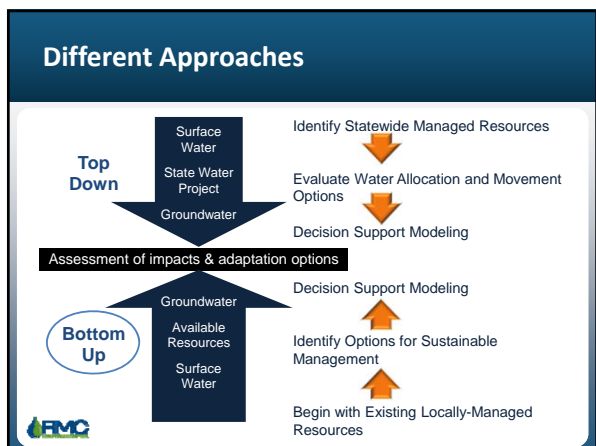
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### California's Groundwater Basins

- Applies to all alluvial basins included in Bulletin 118
- Excludes adjudicated groundwater basins
- Identifies specific water agencies created by statute as sole GSA in

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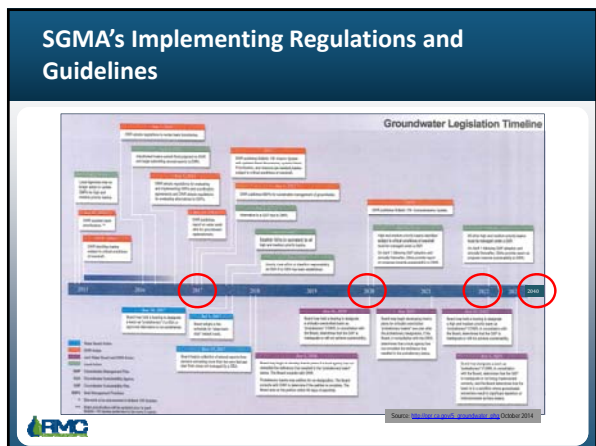
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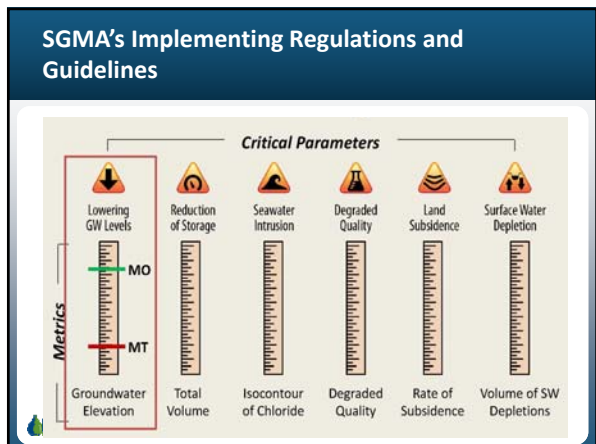
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- ### SGMA in 6 Parts
1. Basin prioritization
  2. Critical overdraft determination
  3. Basin boundary revision
  4. Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) formation
  5. Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) development
  6. GSP implementation.
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### Part 1: Basin Prioritization

- 515 groundwater basins identified by DWR
- Published in Bulletin 118 (2003 Update)
- State categorizes basins by priority
  - Very low
  - Low
  - **Medium**
  - **High**

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### Part 2: Critical Overdraft Designation

- Final list issued in January of 2016
- 21 basins on list
- Critically overdrafted basins have 2 fewer years to implement SGMA


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### Part 3: Basin Boundary Revision

- Revise basin boundaries to better implement SGMA
- Requests due March 31, 2016
- Update to Bulletin 118 based on requests issued September 2016
- Basin reprioritization to follow




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### Part 3: Basin Boundary Revision In Progress

Five types of Basin Boundary Revisions

	Scientific		County Basin Consolidation
	Internal		Basin Subdivision
	Basin Consolidation		




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### Part 4: Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) Formation

- Formed by local agency or combination of local agencies
- Use JPA, MOA, or other legal agreement
- Public hearing and other notification requirements prior to formation
- Counties take responsibility for basins without a GSA
- Multiple GSAs in a single basin must meet all requirements for the entire basin
- State becomes responsible if no GSA or inadequate GSP



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### Revision to SGMA – Senate Bill 13 (Effective January 1, 2015)

- No overlapping GSAs
- Local agency's participation as GSA cannot exceed its individual service area
- Mutual water companies and private water companies may participate in GSAs (but not be a GSA by itself)
- State-required completeness review on GSA formation notices prior to posting



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### GSA Authorities

- May require measuring device on all groundwater extractions
- Impose spacing requirements on new well construction
- Impose reasonable operating regulations on existing wells
- May control groundwater extractions by regulating, limiting or suspending extractions
- May control construction of new wells, enlargements or reactivation of abandoned wells
- May impose fees on groundwater extraction, permits, or other similar activities for groundwater management



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**Challenges to GSA Formation and Operation** **In Progress**

- SGMA implementation cannot alter surface water rights or groundwater rights under common law Federal entities may choose to participate but are not required to
- GSP and GSA must coordinate with land use planning authorities
- Must consider the interest of all beneficial uses and users of the basin



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**Challenges to GSA Formation and Operation** **In Progress**

- SGMA implementation cannot alter surface water rights or groundwater rights under common law Federal entities may choose to participate but are not required to
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**GSP Regulations**

**By June 1, 2016, DWR must adopt regulations for:**

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

**The regulations shall identify:**

- Requirement Plan Components
- Additional Plan Elements
- Coordination of Multiple GSPs in a Basin
- Other information that will help in developing and implementing GSPs



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### GSP Implementation – Coordination Agreements

**Inter-basin Coordination**

- Optional requirement
- Identification of all basins participating
- Technical information
- Process for conflict resolution

**Intra-basin Coordination**

- Mandatory requirement for multiple GSAs
- Recommended if multiple GSAs plan single GSP
- Identification of Coordinating Agency as State's single point of contact
- Responsibilities of each GSA defined

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### GSP Implementation – Technical Requirements, Procedures, and Plan Content

**Technical Requirements**

- Best Management Practices
- Data and Reporting Standards
- Data Management and Recordkeeping

**Plan Content**

- Administrative Information
- Basin Setting
- Sustainable Management Criteria
- Monitoring Networks
- Projects and Management Actions

**Procedures**

- Reporting Provisions
- Initial Notification
- Public Comment

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### GSP Implementation – Evaluation and Assessment

- Plan submitted must be adopted
- State review of Initial Adopted Plan
- Posted to State website for 60 day public comment period
- Evaluation of GSP adequacy
  - Adequate
  - Conditionally Adequate
  - Inadequate
- State may take control if GSP deemed inadequate

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### SWRCB Intervention Trigger Dates

The State will intercede if:

- 6/30/17 No GSA has been formed
- 1/31/20 No GSP has been prepared or if the GSP has been deemed to be inadequate
- 1/31/22 No GSP has been prepared or if the GSP has been deemed to be inadequate and the basin is considered to be in a condition of long-term overdraft
- 1/31/26 GSP is deemed inadequate and that there is significant depletion of interconnected (SW-GW) waters



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### Funding

- Cost of GSA formation – undetermined
- Early estimations for GSP development - \$1M to \$3M+
- Proposition 1 Funding
  - Approved in November 2014
  - Includes \$100M for competitive grants statewide
  - Requires 50% cost-share
- How to fund the rest??



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### AND THEY ALL LIVED HAPPILY EVER AFTER ??



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**QUESTIONS?**

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(916) 999-8778



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**Implementing  
SGMA**

California's Foray into  
Groundwater Regulation

Presenter: Leslie Dumas



Complex Challenges | Innovative Solutions

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