State Implementation of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA)

Erik Ekdahl
Office of Research, Planning and Performance
State Water Resources Control Board
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- The state’s groundwater storage capacity is more than 10 times that of all surface reservoirs.

- 85% of Californians depend on groundwater for at least part of their drinking water.

- About 5 million acres of farmland in California are irrigated with groundwater – more in drought years.
California has experienced rapid population growth.

Source: California Department of Finance estimates.
From: Just the Facts: California’s Population, PPIC, 2014.
“A central feature of these bills is the recognition that groundwater management in California is best accomplished locally.”

The Basics

- Requires formation of sustainability agencies and development of sustainability plans
  - 127 High and medium priority basins

- Authorizes management tools for local agencies

- Defines timeframe for accomplishing goals

- Provides alternative if users can show basin is sustainable

- Creates state “backstop”
STATEWIDE
SGMA PRIORITIZATION

Basins displayed by priority:

- 43 High Priority (O)
- 84 Medium Priority (Y)
- 27 Low Priority (G)
- 361 Very Low Priority (Lt. G)

Calculation involves:
- Population & Pop. Growth
- Irrigated acreage
- Public supply wells
- And other variables

NOT A MEASURE OF SUSTAINABILITY
Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) (2017)
- One or more agencies
- If more than one agency per basin, GSAs must coordinate

GSAs Prepare Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs) (2020/2022)
- Measurable objectives
- Implementation milestones
- Annual reports (water use, extraction, change in storage)

Achieve Sustainability 20 years after plan adoption, prevent “undesirable results”
Sustainable groundwater management

Management and use of groundwater in a manner that can be maintained during the planning and implementation horizon without causing undesirable results.

Undesirable results

- Chronic lowering of groundwater levels (not including overdraft during a drought, if a basin is otherwise managed)
- Significant and unreasonable:
  - reductions in groundwater storage
  - seawater intrusion
  - degradation of water quality
  - Significant and unreasonable land subsidence
  - Surface water depletions adversely impacting on beneficial uses
State Agency Roles

- Department of Water Resources
  - Technical assistance
  - Develop regulations
  - Review plans

- State Water Board
  - Only when local efforts do not succeed
  - Fees – Board is required to recover costs
  - Data managers
  - Basin managers – direct management of local groundwater resources
Basin boundary modification regulations
GSP regulations
Best Management Practices
  ◦ Draft version available
  ◦ Public meetings this month
Updates to basin priorities
Alternative Plan Review (early 2017)
GSP review (2020–2024)
State Intervention Basics

- Board can only step in when local efforts fail.

- Numerous off-ramps for locals to avoid State Intervention.

- Phased approach based on SGMA deadlines:
  - Failure to form a GSA
  - Failure to adopt or implement a GSP
Progression of State Backstop

- **Reporting**: First step – data used to determine if further action is needed.
- **Probationary**: Local opportunity to fix issues, Board develops plan to remedy undesirable results.
- **Interim Plan**: Board will implement corrective actions.

All of these activities will result in costs the State Water Board must recover through fees.

Send questions to groundwater_management@waterboards.ca.gov
Intervention Fees

Board must develop fees to cover the cost of implementing State Intervention.

Fee Schedule adopted as an emergency regulation.

Timeline

- Scoping: Summer 2016
- Outreach: Fall/Winter 2016
- Draft Fees: Early spring 2017
- Fees Adopted: Late spring 2017
- Ready: July 1, 2017
## Proposed Fee Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fee Type</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>1. Base Filing Fee</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>$100 per well</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2a. Unmanaged Area Rate</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>$10/$25 per AF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2b. Probationary Basin Rate</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>$40 per AF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2c. Interim Plan Rate</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>$55 per AF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>3. Special Studies Fee</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>TBD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>4. Late Fee</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>25% per month</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*These fees do not apply if locals form a GSA, adopt a GSP and implement the GSP.*
Example

Annual fee for a farm with one well, irrigating 150 acres with 300 acre-feet of groundwater per year:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Metered $10/AF</th>
<th>Unmetered $25/AF</th>
<th>Base Filing Fee $100</th>
<th>Probationary Basin $40/AF</th>
<th>Interim Plan $55/AF</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$3,000</td>
<td>$7,500</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>$12,000 ($80 per acre)</td>
<td>$16,500 ($110 per acre)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Send questions to groundwater_management@waterboards.ca.gov
State Board Can Act as a Basin Manager

Develop fees to support basin management

Designate probationary basins

Probationary basins lead to interim sustainability plans

Interim plans manage basins until local efforts come up to speed
What will Board Intervention Look Like?

- **Data**
  - Same data needed by a GSA, but now managed by State.
  - Higher frequency (monthly minimum reporting)

- **Fees**
  - Fees associated with reporting
  - Board recovers cost for all intervention–related activities (monitoring plans, well construction, facilitation, technical studies, models)

- **Interim plans**
  - Pumping restrictions are most straightforward
  - State developed physical solutions are unlikely
What does SGMA mean for agriculture?

- Better data on water use
  - Efficiency
  - Nutrient loading
  - Pumping – either at GSA level or at State Water Board

- Water will become more expensive

- There may be less in some places
  - Under probation, Board will likely focus on demand reduction (less pumping)

- Locals will need to reconcile land use issues
Thank You!

Erik Ekdahl
Off. Of Research, Planning and Performance
Erik.Ekdahl@waterboards.ca.gov
916-341-5316

Additional Information:
www.groundwater.ca.gov
DWR – www.water.ca.gov/groundwater
State Board –

Lyris email alert list:
http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/resources/email_subscriptions/swrcb_subscribe.shtml