

SGMA

**New Agencies, New Direction,
New Responsibilities**

HOW BIG IS THE PROBLEM?

- **Interconnected basins**
- **2-2.5 million acre-feet of groundwater overdraft per year**
- **Related impacts**
- **Up to 500,000 – 700,000 acres could be fallowed**
- **Estimated crop value loss in the billions each year**



THE PERFECT STORM

- Severe drought, renewed subsidence, wells going dry, water reallocations, all came to a head in 2014
- San Joaquin Valley became the poster child of what has gone wrong



THE FALLOUT WAS ...

Passage of Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) in 2014



Will affect both agricultural and urban/municipal wells

MANDATED FIX

CASGEM Groundwater Basin Prioritization — South Central Region



- State passes Sustainable Groundwater Management Act of 2014 (SGMA)
- Basins have ≈ 25 years to achieve “sustainability”
- New agencies to be created; plans to be put in place
- Local control preserved, if we exercise it
- Overdraft is the primary problem
- Related impacts

A GRAND EXPERIMENT

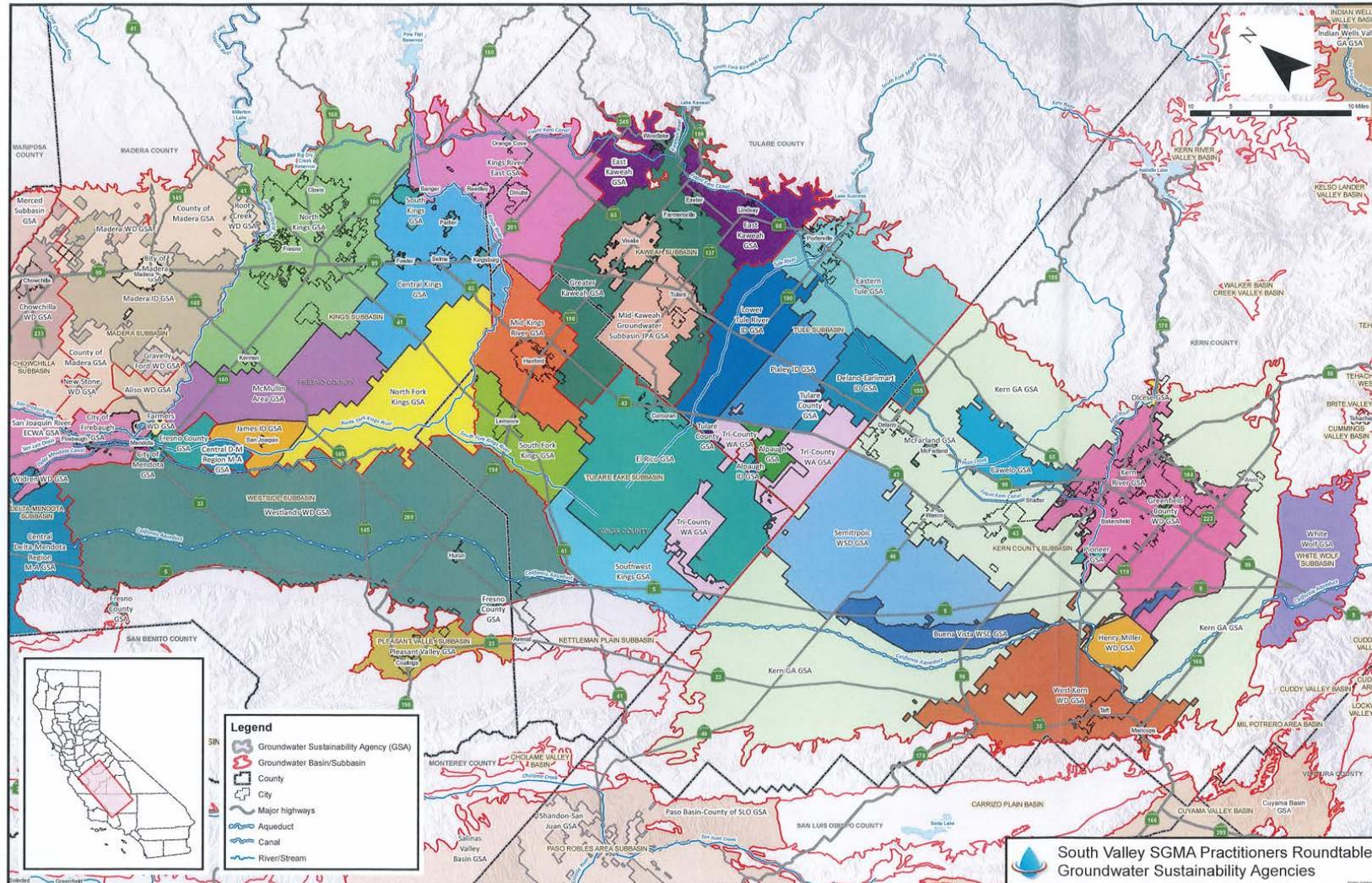
GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCIES

“The simultaneous creation of hundreds of new public agencies with significant, long-term management responsibilities has little precedent in California or elsewhere in the United States.”

– from “To Consolidate or Coordinate?”

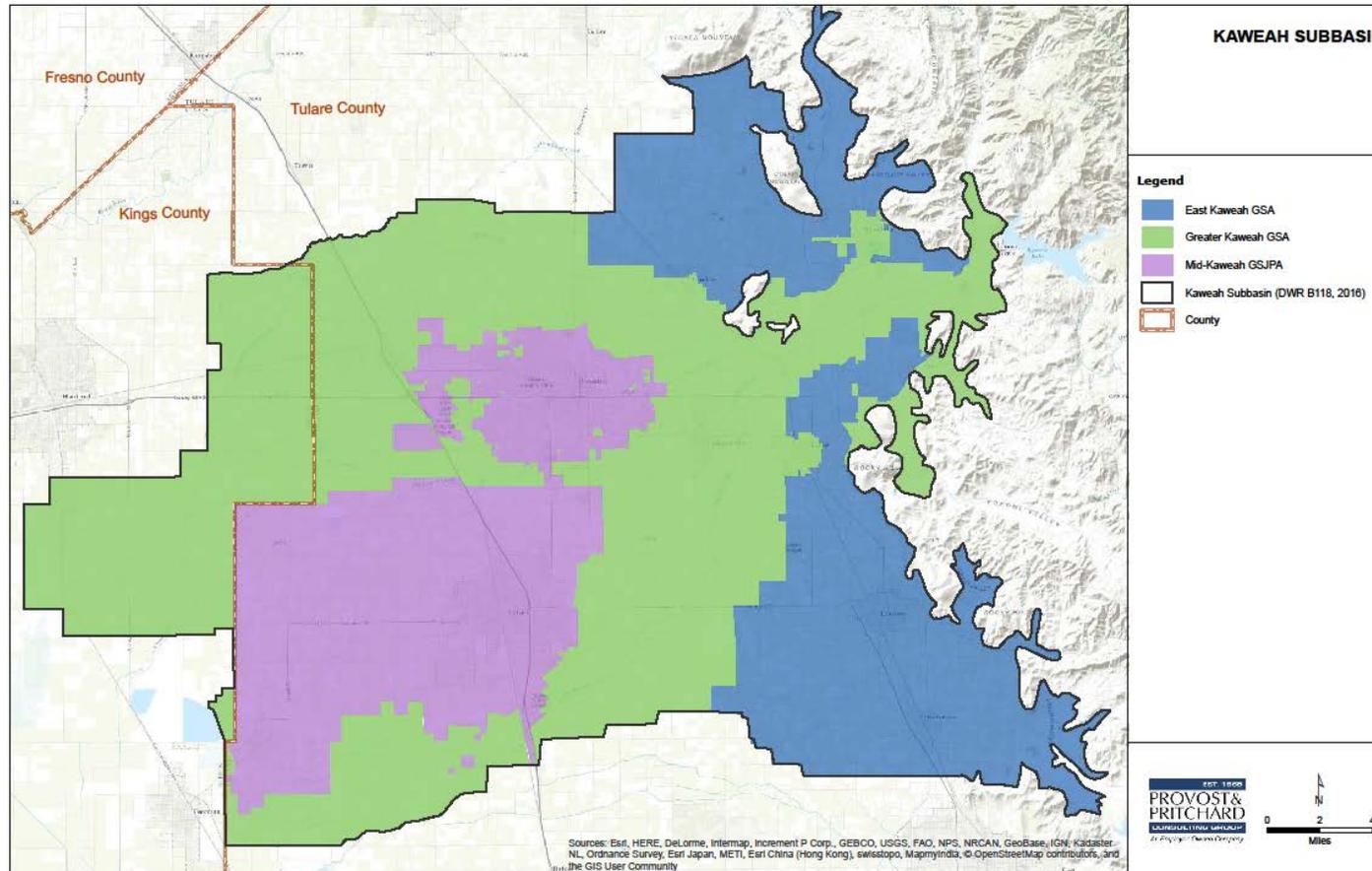
Stanford Law School, Gould Center for
Conflict Resolution 2016

GSAS IN SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY



About 300 state-wide
120 in San Joaquin Valley

GSAS IN KAWEAH REGION



East Kaweah GSA – 120,000 acres

Greater Kaweah GSA – 219,000 acres

Mid-Kaweah GSA – 108,000 acres

WHAT WILL OR COULD GSAS DO?



- Require measurement of groundwater pumping
- Regulate/limit groundwater pumping
- Voluntary land retirement
- Possible allocation flexibility
- Charge fees for costs incurred
- Find/capture more water

Local implementation first; state intervention if necessary

KEY COMPLIANCE DATES

June 2017 – Notify State DWR of Agency Formation

Jan 2020 – Critically-overdrafted basins must be operating under new sustainability plans

- **NO PLAN? STATE STEPS IN**
- **NO PROGRESS ALONG THE WAY? STATE STEPS IN**

By Jan 2040 – Sustainability to be achieved

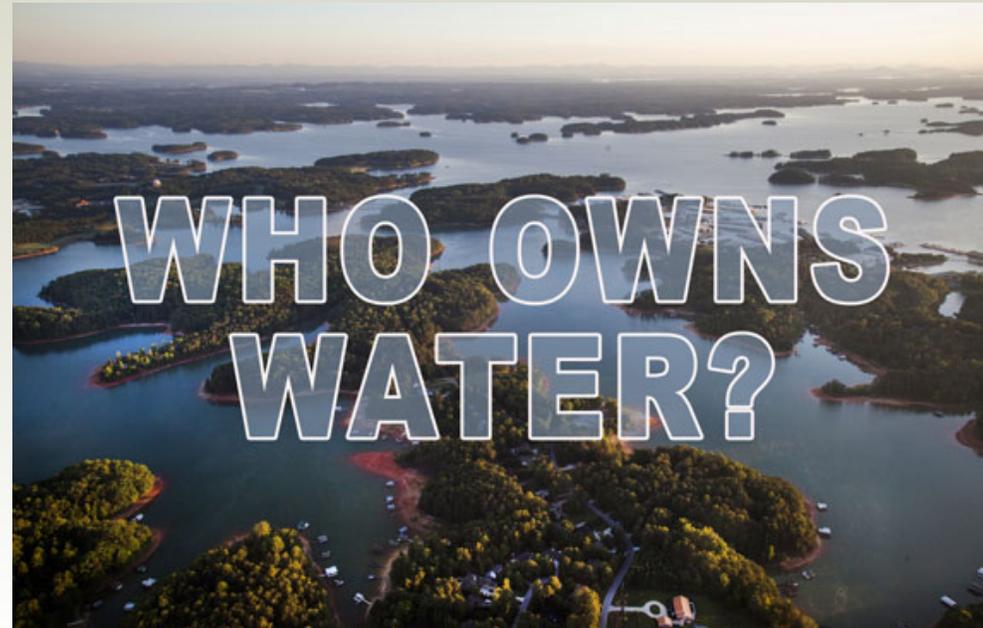
- **DIDN'T GET THERE? STATE STEPS IN**

Two potential 5-yr extensions beyond 20 yrs “for good cause”

Total 50-year planning horizon to maintain sustainability

SORTING OUT GROUNDWATER OWNERSHIP

- **Groundwater rights not clear**
 - Landowners
 - Municipalities
- **Role of surface water rights**
- **Many GSAs – many water budgets**
- **SGMA v. basin adjudications**



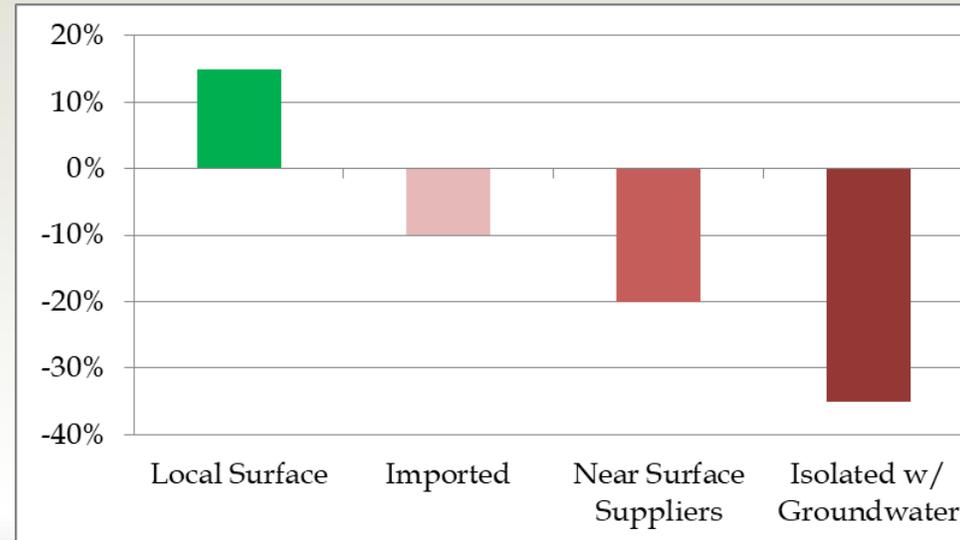
INTERIM LAND VALUE REALITIES

Financial markets reacting

Groupings:

- Lands w/ local Sierra stream supplies
- Lands with imported supplies
- Lands in or near surface suppliers
- Isolated lands with deep groundwater only

Land Value Changes – South San Joaquin Valley



Will GSP projects mitigate for sagging land values?

MID-KAWEAH GSA STRANGE BEDFELLOWS?



Cities will grow over 50-yr planning horizon

TID flows water through both cities

At times, TID has surplus water

Ag/urban leadership role

**Supply projects cost money – recharge that benefits
TID benefits both cities**

**History of Collaboration - partnerships already
established**

GOVERNANCE



Mid-Kaweah Groundwater Sustainability Agency

Board Members

Howard Stroman (Tulare)	Dave Martin (TID)
Jose Sigala (Tulare)	Greg Collins (Visalia)
David Bixler (TID)	Steve Nelson (Visalia)

Management Committee

Tech. Advisory Sub-Committee

Advisory Committee

ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

B. WILBUR – CHAIR J. NICHOLS – VICE CHAIR

Mark Boyes – At-large, Tulare (ag.-related business)

Lee Johnson – At-large, Visalia

Eric Furtado – At-large, Visalia (Calif. Water Service Co.)

Richard Garcia – Environmental, Visalia (Sierra Club)

Mike Lane – At-large, Tulare (Building Industry Assn.)

Irene Lemons – At-large, Okieville (Okieville-Highland Acres MWC)

Sopac Mulholland – Environmental, Visalia (Sequoia Riverlands Trust)

Jim Nichols – Agriculture, Tulare (Nichols Farms)

Jessi Snyder – DAC, Visalia (Self-Help Enterprises)

Blake Wilbur – Agriculture, Tulare (SBS Ag.)

Edward Henry – At large, Tulare (retired, CA Dept. of Food & Ag.)

LOOKING AHEAD



Coordination Agreement with others – cost \$850K; equal sharing by three GSAs

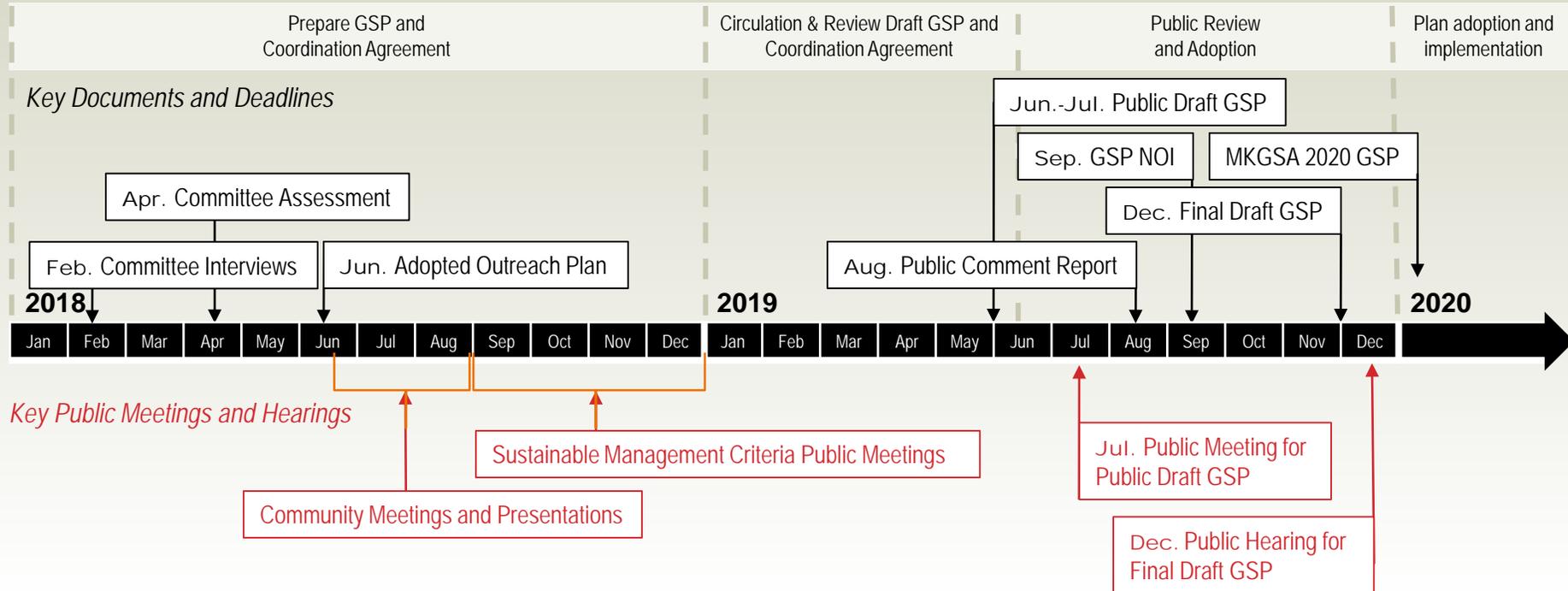
Plan Development – cost \$600K; equal contributions by cities, TID

What's in a Plan? Pumping measurements, project formulation, pumping allocations

Plan Implementation in 2020 – cost ? sharing?

Objectives – minimize impacts on ag productivity; satisfy growth projections of city General Plans

IMPLEMENTATION AND ADAPTATION



GET INVOLVED!

- Find your GSA at SGMA.water.ca.gov
- Find us at www.MKGSA.org
- Stakeholder Venues
 - GSA advisory committees
 - GSA board meetings
 - Other public meetings
 - GSA meeting notes at waterwrights.net