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
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
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

MANDATED FIX
“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](chart)

Will GSP projects mitigate for sagging land values?
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.)
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

Key Documents and Deadlines

2018

Feb. Committee Interviews

Jun. Adopted Outreach Plan

2019

Aug. Public Comment Report

Jun.-Jul. Public Draft GSP

Sep. GSP NOI

MKGSA 2020 GSP

2020

Dec. Final Draft GSP

Jul. Public Meeting for Public Draft GSP

Dec. Public Hearing for Final Draft GSP

Key Public Meetings and Hearings

Sustainable Management Criteria Public Meetings

Community Meetings and Presentations
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