



MERCED AREA GROUNDWATER POOL INTERESTS

Pending State Groundwater Management Rules

MAGPI

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Pending GW Legislative Actions

- Two Bills are currently proposed:

- SB 1168

- AB 1739

Links Available on MAGPI Website at:

<http://magpi-gw.org/index.cfm/legislation/>



Overall Purpose

To manage groundwater through plans developed locally or regionally in accordance with state-developed minimum standards for sustainable groundwater management



Deadlines:

- June 1, 2016: DWR adopts regulations for evaluating groundwater sustainability plans and programs
- January 1, 2017: DWR categorizes each groundwater basin as high, medium, low or very low priority
- January 1, 2017: Local agencies elect to become groundwater sustainability agency (GSA) for basin and notify DWR. GSA can be JPA or agreement between local agencies. "white areas" (those areas not covered by GSA) will be managed by county unless county opts out
- January 31, 2020: GSA submits plan to DWR with certification that plan complies with the state law (and every 5 years thereafter)



Alternative compliance

- A Groundwater Sustainability Agency may be construed from one or multiple agencies. GSA may develop plan and ask court to determine whether in compliance with state law
- Report submitted by groundwater agency that shows that current management or operation activities have been consistent with sustainable yield of the basin over a period of 10 years
- Bill does not apply to adjudicated groundwater basins



Plan Shall Include

- Groundwater elevation data
- Groundwater extraction data
- Surface water supply
- Total water use
- Change in groundwater storage



The Plan Establishes:

- Measurable objectives, as well as interim milestones in increments of five years, to achieve the sustainability goal in the basin within 20 years of the implementation of the plan
- Sustainable Yield



State Agencies with Authority

- Department of Water Resources (DWR) -Monitoring Agencies:
 - DWR may review plans. DWR may issue findings regarding compliance with state law. GSA must consider amendments to plan if recommended
- State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB)- Enforcing Agency
 - In the absence of a local GSA with a satisfying plan, SWRCB has the authority to start a process providing guidance, or eventually control
 - *Side Note: There will be fees*

