

The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act

Initial Overview

Draft Emergency Regulations for Groundwater Sustainability Plans and Alternatives

Released February 18, 2016

Presentation Outline

- I. Overview and Timelines
- II. Articles
- III. Specific Items of Interest

GSP Overview

- Require a course to achieve sustainable groundwater management within 20 years of plan implementation
- Fundamental Principle - Local control and management
 - Preserve role of local agencies to manage basins and achieve sustainability,
 - Local flexibility to define problems in basins,
 - Establish minimum thresholds,
 - Set measurable objectives,
 - Determine projects and management actions that will be required to achieve sustainability.
 - Recognize adaptive management as an important tool to address plan uncertainties and improve groundwater management over time.

GSP Overview - Timeline

- 57 Pages
- Available for public review at www.water.ca.gov/groundwater/sgm/gsp.cfm
- Public comments in writing through March 25, 2016.
- 3 public meetings and a statewide webinar in March
- Final GSP Regulations Completed – June 1, 2016

GSP Overview - Timeline

Public Meetings and Webinar

- Monday, March 21, 2016 - Visalia
 - 4:00 P.M. to 6:00 P.M.
- Tuesday, March 22, 2016 – Santa Ana
 - 1:00 P.M. to 3:00 P.M.
- Thursday, March 24, 2016 - Webinar
 - 1:00 P.M. to 3:00 P.M.
- Friday, March 25, 2016 - Sacramento
 - 9:00 A.M. to 11:00 A.M.

GSP Overview - Articles

- ARTICLE 1. Introductory Provisions
- ARTICLE 2. Definitions
- ARTICLE 3. Technical and Reporting Standards
- ARTICLE 4. Procedures
- ARTICLE 5. Plan Contents
 - SUBARTICLE 1. Administrative Information
 - SUBARTICLE 2. Basin Setting
 - SUBARTICLE 3. Sustainable Management Criteria
 - SUBARTICLE 4. Monitoring Networks
 - SUBARTICLE 5. Projects and Management Actions
- ARTICLE 6. Evaluation and Assessment
- ARTICLE 7. Reports, Assessments, and Amendments
 - SUBARTICLE 1. Annual Reports
 - SUBARTICLE 2. Periodic Evaluation of Plan
 - SUBARTICLE 3. Plan Amendments
- ARTICLE 8. Coordination Agreements
- ARTICLE 9. Alternatives and Adjudicated Areas

GSP Overview – Items of Interest

ARTICLE 1. Introductory Provisions

- § 350.2. General Principles
 - (c) The Department shall evaluate the adequacy of all Plans, including subsequent modifications to Plans, and reports and periodic evaluations based on a substantial compliance standard as described in Article 6.
 - (g) The Department may evaluate a Plan at any time, for compliance with the Act and this Subchapter.

GSP Overview – Items of Interest

ARTICLE 2. Definitions

- (i) “Coordinating agency” refers to a groundwater sustainability agency or other authorized entity that represents two or more Agencies or Plans for a basin and is the sole point of contact with the Department.

GSP Overview – Items of Interest

ARTICLE 3. Technical and Reporting Standards

- § 352.4. Best Management Practices
 - (a) Each Plan shall include best management practices adopted by the Agency... the Agency may rely on best management practices developed by the Department or shall adopt their own best management practices.
 - (b) Best management practices shall be reviewed at least every five years as part of the periodic evaluation of the Plan and modified as necessary.

GSP Overview – Items of Interest

ARTICLE 3. Technical and Reporting Standards

- § 352.6. Data and Reporting Standards
 - (e) Groundwater and surface water models developed or utilized as part of or in support of a Plan shall consist of public domain open-source software that meets the following requirements:
 - (1) Shall have publically available supporting documentation that establishes its ability to represent groundwater and surface water flow.
 - (2) Shall be calibrated against site-specific field data.
 - (3) Shall be based on actual field or laboratory measurements, or equivalent methods, that document the validity of chosen parameter values.

GSP Overview – Items of Interest

ARTICLE 3. Technical and Reporting Standards

- § 352.6. Data and Reporting Standards
 - (f) The Agency shall provide a list of references and technical studies relied upon by the Agency in developing the Plan. The Agency shall provide electronic copies of all reports and other documents and materials that are not otherwise generally available to the public. Proprietary data and reports need not be disclosed unless requested by the Department to resolve interbasin disputes, as described in Section 355.12..

GSP Overview – Items of Interest

ARTICLE 4. Procedures

- § 353.4. Reporting Provisions
 - (c) All materials submitted to the Department shall be posted on the Department's Internet Web site
- § 353.6. Initial Notification
 - (a) Each Agency shall notify the Department, in writing, within 30 days of an Agency's decision to develop a Plan. The notification shall provide general information about the Agency's process for developing the Plan, including the manner in which interested parties may contact the Agency and participate in the development and implementation of the plan. The Agency shall make the information publicly available by posting relevant information on the Agency's Internet Web site.

GSP Overview – Items of Interest

ARTICLE 5. Plan Contents

- § 354.6. Agency Information
 - (b) Documentation of the organization and management structure of the Agency. The documentation shall identify persons with management authority for implementation of the Plan.
 - (d) The legal authority of the Agency with specific reference to citations setting forth the duties, powers, and responsibilities of the Agency, including information demonstrating that the Agency has the necessary legal authority to implement the Plan.

GSP Overview – Items of Interest

ARTICLE 5. Plan Contents

- § 354.6. Agency Information
 - (e) A description of anticipated revenues and costs of implementing the Plan, including programs, projects, contracts, administrative expenses and other expected costs, and information demonstrating that the Agency has the necessary financial ability to implement the Plan.

GSP Overview – Items of Interest

ARTICLE 5. Plan Contents

- § 354.8. Description of Plan Area
 - (a) One or more maps of the basin that depict the following:
 - (5) The density of wells per square mile, by dasymetric or similar mapping techniques, showing the distribution of all agricultural, industrial, and domestic water supply wells in the basin, including de minimis extractors, and the location and extent of communities dependent upon groundwater. Each Agency shall utilize data available from the Department, as specified in Section 353.2, or the best available information.

GSP Overview – Items of Interest

ARTICLE 5. Plan Contents

- § 354.8. Description of Plan Area
 - (c) A description of existing water resource monitoring programs including, but not limited to, agricultural water management plans, urban water management plans, the California Statewide Groundwater Elevation Monitoring Program, the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program, and the Groundwater Ambient Monitoring Assessment Program, Salt Nutrient Management Plans. To the extent existing programs require information similar to that required by this Subchapter, the Plan may incorporate data from existing programs.

GSP Overview – Items of Interest

ARTICLE 5. Plan Contents

- § 354.8. Description of Plan Area
 - (d) How existing water resource monitoring and management programs and agencies with water management authority, could affect the ability of the Agency to achieve sustainable groundwater management, and how the Plan addresses potential effects.

GSP Overview – Items of Interest

ARTICLE 5. Plan Contents

- § 354.10. Notice and Communication
- Each Plan shall include a summary of information relating to notification and communication by the Agency with other agencies and interested parties including the following:
 - (a) The list of interested persons established and maintained by the Agency.
 - (b) A description of the interests of beneficial uses and users of groundwater in the basin, and the persons or entities representing those interests, and the nature of consultation with those interests.
 - (c) A summary of public meetings at which the Plan was discussed or considered by the Agency.

GSP Overview – Items of Interest

ARTICLE 5. Plan Contents

- § 354.10. Notice and Communication
 - (d) A copy of all comments regarding the Plan received by the Agency and a summary of any responses made by the Agency.
 - (e) A communication plan adopted by the Agency, including the following;

GSP Overview – Items of Interest

ARTICLE 5. Plan Contents

- § 354.10. Notice and Communication
 - (e) A communication plan adopted by the Agency, including the following;
 - (1) An explanation of the Agency's decision-making process and how stakeholder input and public response will be used.
 - (2) Identification of opportunities for stakeholder engagement.
 - (3) A description of how the Agency encourages the active involvement of diverse social, cultural, and economic elements of the population within the basin.
 - (4) A schedule of milestones and scheduled dates for known projects or actions.
 - (5) A description of the roles and responsibilities of local agencies and the public.

GSP Overview – Items of Interest

ARTICLE 5. Plan Contents

- § 354.16. Basin Conditions
 - The Plan shall characterize current and historical groundwater conditions in the basin. The Plan shall rely on the best available data to characterize historical conditions prior to January 1, 2015. The description of historical basin conditions shall specifically include conditions that existed as of January 1, 2015, and a comparison with present conditions.

GSP Overview – Items of Interest

ARTICLE 5. Plan Contents

- § 354.18. Water Budget
 - The Plan shall include a water budget for the basin that provides an accounting and assessment of the total annual amount of groundwater and surface water entering and leaving the basin, including historical, current and projected water budget conditions, and the change in the amount of water stored. Water budget information shall be reported in tabular and graphical form.

GSP Overview – Items of Interest

ARTICLE 5. Plan Contents

- § 354.24. Management Areas
 - Each Agency may define one or more management areas within a basin if local conditions for one or more critical parameters differ significantly from those of the basin at large, and if the Agency has determined that subdivision into management areas will facilitate implementation of the Plan. Management areas may have different minimum thresholds and be operated to different measurable objectives than the basin at large, provided that the goal of the Plan is to achieve sustainable management for the entire basin by the target date and that operation to different standards within a management area does not produce undesirable results elsewhere.

GSP Overview – Items of Interest

ARTICLE 5. Plan Contents

- § 354.22. Introduction to Sustainable Management Criteria
- § 354.24 Sustainability Goal
- § 354.26. Undesirable Results
- § 354.28. Minimum Thresholds
- § 354.30. Measurable Objectives
- § 354.32. Introduction to Monitoring Networks
- § 354.34. Monitoring Network
- § 354.36. Representative Monitoring
- § 354.38. Assessment and Improvement of Monitoring Network
- § 354.40. Reporting Monitoring Data to the Department
- § 354.42. Introduction to Projects and Management Actions
- § 354.44. Projects and Management Actions

GSP Overview – Items of Interest

ARTICLE 6. Evaluation and Assessment

- § 355.2. Department Review of Initial Adopted Plan
 - (c) The Department shall establish a period of no less than 60 days to receive public comments on the adopted plan, as described in Section 353.8.
 - (e) The Department shall evaluate a Plan within two years of its submittal date and issue a written assessment of the Plan that includes a description supporting the assessment, which will be posted on the Department's website. The Department may include recommended corrective actions to address any deficiencies identified in the assessment.