The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act in Colusa County

Local Implementing Agency (LIA) Concept

A Localized Governance Alternative for the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act
Outline

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Background

Local Implementing Agency – LIA Concept

- Envisioned by Center for Collaborative Policy initially for Kaweah Delta
- White Paper Pending
- Concept has not been reviewed or approved by DWR or State Board
Problem Statement

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• SGMA mandates Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSA)

• SGMA creates no other new form of governance. GSAs appear to be an “all or nothing” approach

• SGMA is “agnostic” about whether a local agency is ready, willing, and able to be a GSA

• Most eligible GSAs are prepared to support the purpose and intent of SGMA. But…. 
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- SGMA creates concern for local agencies who do not want their water use dictated by “others” and have limited resources to participate in / create a GSA

- In some cases multi-agency GSAs will be appropriate
  - Achieve economies of scale
  - Avoid duplication of effort and stakeholder confusion
  - Effective sharing of data (required for GSP)

- Multi-agency GSA has practical limitations
  - Size
  - Financial cost of membership role
  - Time implications to smaller eligible agencies
Proposal

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• Hypothesis – *There can be a form of governance that achieves SGMA objectives and the interests / limitations of a local agency that opts to not be a full GSA*

• A localized, intermediate layer of governance within a GSA

• “Think globally…act locally”
  • Global Plan – Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP)
  • Local Implementation - LIA

• LIA is an implementing unit of a GSA
Example Application

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- Multi-agency GSA is formed.
- All eligible GSAs are afforded a venue to provide input on governance and the GSP
- Some eligible GSAs decide to take on governing member role. Other eligible GSAs opt to be a LIA
- GSP is prepared and includes “Management Areas” (as described in draft GSP Regulation)
- Management Area boundaries match boundaries of individual eligible GSAs or groups of eligible GSAs
Example Application

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• GSP prescribes roles, responsibilities, and actions to be taken by all groundwater users

• Roles, responsibilities, and actions differ by Management Area and perhaps by specific local agencies

• GSA assumes specific “global” responsibilities (e.g. reporting to State, final enforcement, fee collection, etc.)

• LIAs assume the localized responsibility to implement the requirements of the GSP attributed to them (e.g. local water use, initial enforcement, land owner engagement, etc.)
Open Discussion / Q&A