The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act in Colusa County

Local Implementing Agency (LIA) Concept

A Localized Governance Alternative for the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act
Outline

I. Background
II. Problem Statement
III. Proposal
IV. Example Application
**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

Local Implementing Agency – LIA Concept

- 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

*Local Implementing Agency – LIA Concept*

- 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.)
Example 2 – Governance Diagram

GSA 1
- Water Distr. A
- Coord. Agrmnt

GSA 2
- City A
- Mutual Water Co.

Policy & Implement
- Water Distr. B
- City B
- Irrig. Distr.
- County

Implement
- Agency 1
- Agency 2
- Agency 3
1. Coordination & Enforcement Backstop: Each Management Area would have representation on the GSA.

2. Committees or Boards representing LIAs.

3. Local Implementing Agencies with delegated Authorities.

GSA

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GSP

Management Area (MA) 1

MA 1

MA 2

MA 3

Other Agency (ies)
Open Discussion / Q&A