

PRELIMINARY / PROPOSED

Colusa SGMA Implementation Common Principles

The following are preliminary proposed principles that may be used to guide initial discussions on Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSA) formation and governance among interested parties.

1. The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) affects all citizens of Colusa County. It offers beneficial opportunities to achieve sustainable groundwater conditions in a manner that will support our vital agricultural economy, other industry, and domestic and public water uses.
2. Sacramento River surface water supplies are increasingly uncertain due to competing demands. Colusa County citizens need to improve water certainty. SGMA provides for local management of groundwater in a way that surface water management can't achieve.
3. A partnered approach to groundwater management is in the best interest of Colusa County citizens because:
 - a. Eligible GSAs have a mutual vested interest in our common groundwater resources.
 - b. GSA formation and the long term management will have extensive and lasting financial costs for many water users.
 - c. Preparation and implementation of one or more Groundwater Sustainability Plans will also have extensive and lasting financial costs.
 - d. Pooling financial and in-kind resources between eligible GSAs will improve the efficiency of SGMA implementation as we capitalize on skills and strengths of various partners.
4. Eligible GSAs are committed to inform and update all private well owners about SGMA impacts and work to ensure private well owners are involved in SGMA implementation
5. Eligible GSAs and private well owners are committed to achieve local solutions and avoid State intervention on groundwater management.
6. Eligible GSAs are committed to work collaboratively with groundwater managers and users in neighboring counties and water agencies, and with neighboring surface water users and suppliers.
7. Groundwater impacts throughout the County and region are not equal. There are portions of the County where groundwater levels have decreased, resulting in reduced groundwater availability. There are portions of the County that do not experience such challenges. Sustainability solutions will need to reflect these differences.
8. The proposed Sites Reservoir will provide local water supplies. These supplies should be integrated into a water management system that includes local groundwater recharge and use. This system will increase the value of the reservoir, the eligibility of storage funding, and regional water resiliency.

County Government Specific

9. The County Government is committed to represent the common and unique interests of groundwater users located outside of other GSA eligible agency boundaries.

10. The County Government supports a partnered approach to form and participate in a GSA. The County Government does not expect or advocate being the sole leader of any GSA within the County boundaries.

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