

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

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....

Problem Statement (continued)

Local Implementing Agency – LIA Concept

- 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

Local Implementing Agency – LIA Concept

- 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.)

Open Discussion / Q&A