

UPDATE ON SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT ACT IMPLEMENTATION

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State Water Resources Control Board

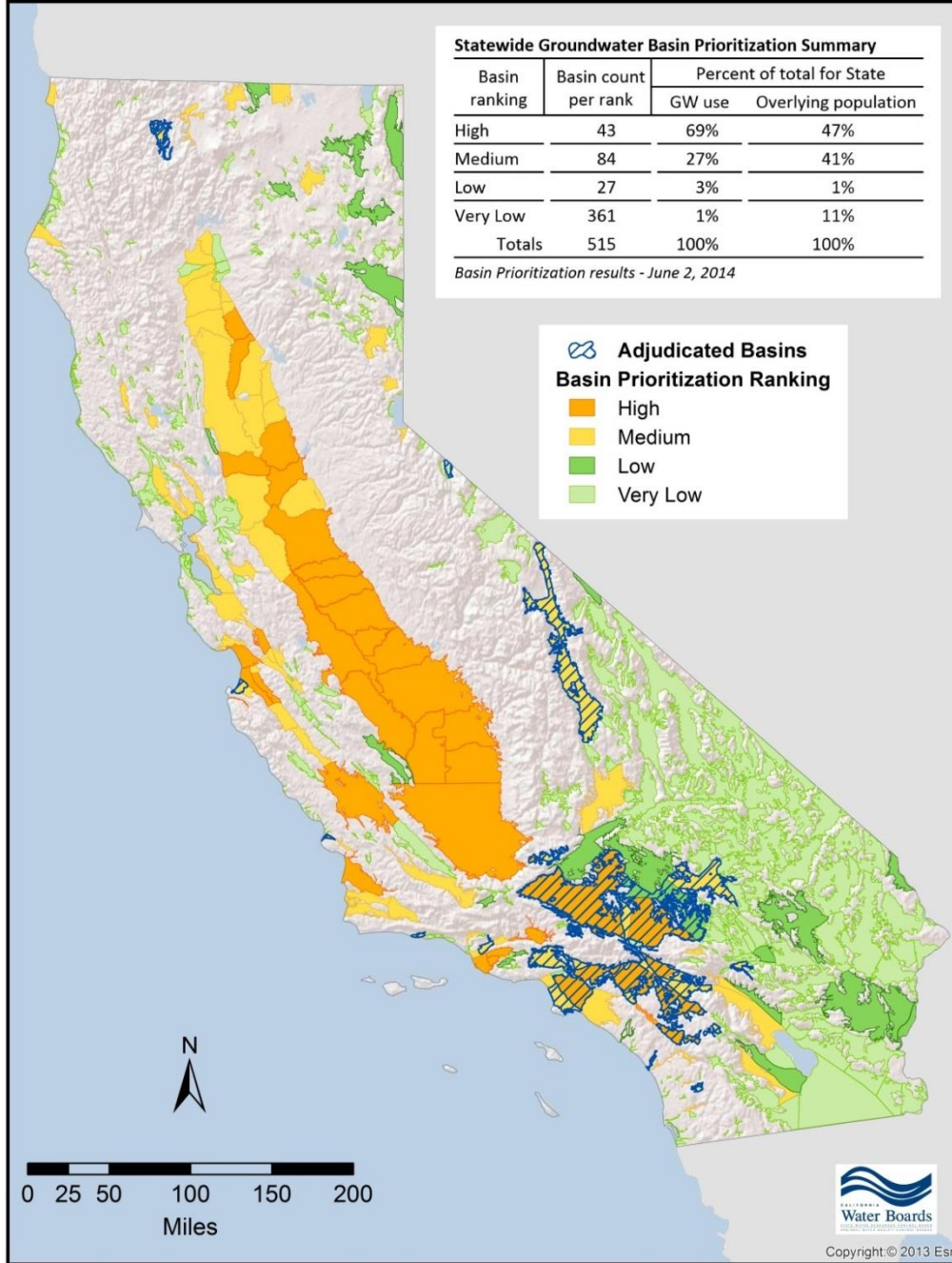


Updates on:

- Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) Background
- SWRCB Roles
- DWR Activities
- SWRCB and DWR Coordination

SGMA Background

- Signed into law Sept. 2014
- Applies to 127 high and medium priority basins



Key SGMA Requirements

- Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) (2017)
 - One or more agencies
 - If more than one agency per basin, GSAs must coordinate
- GSAs Prepare Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs) (2020/2022)
 - Measurable objectives
 - Implementation milestones
 - Annual reports (water use, extraction, change in storage)
- Achieve Sustainability 20 years after plan adoption, prevent “undesirable results”

Sustainable groundwater management

Management and use of groundwater in a manner that can be maintained during the planning and implementation horizon without causing undesirable results.

Undesirable results

- Chronic lowering of groundwater levels (not including overdraft during a drought, if a basin is otherwise managed)
- Significant and unreasonable:
 - Reductions in groundwater storage
 - Seawater intrusion
 - Degradation of water quality
 - Significant and unreasonable land subsidence
 - Surface water depletions adversely impacting on beneficial uses

The “Backstop” State Board Intervention

After	Intervention Trigger
June 30, 2017	Areas without a GSA begin reporting well locations and extraction data to SWRCB; can begin probationary basin designation 180 days later.
Jan. 31, 2020	Can begin probationary basin designation in critically overdrafted basins with no GSP or where GSP is inadequate
Jan. 31, 2022	Can begin probationary basin designation in other high/medium priority basins without a GSP or inadequate GSP and basin is in long-term overdraft
Jan. 31, 2025	Probationary basin designations where GSP is inadequate and significant depletions of interconnected surface waters

In all triggering events, intervention is the result of failure by locals to create a GSA or adopt and implement a GSP

State Water Board Roles

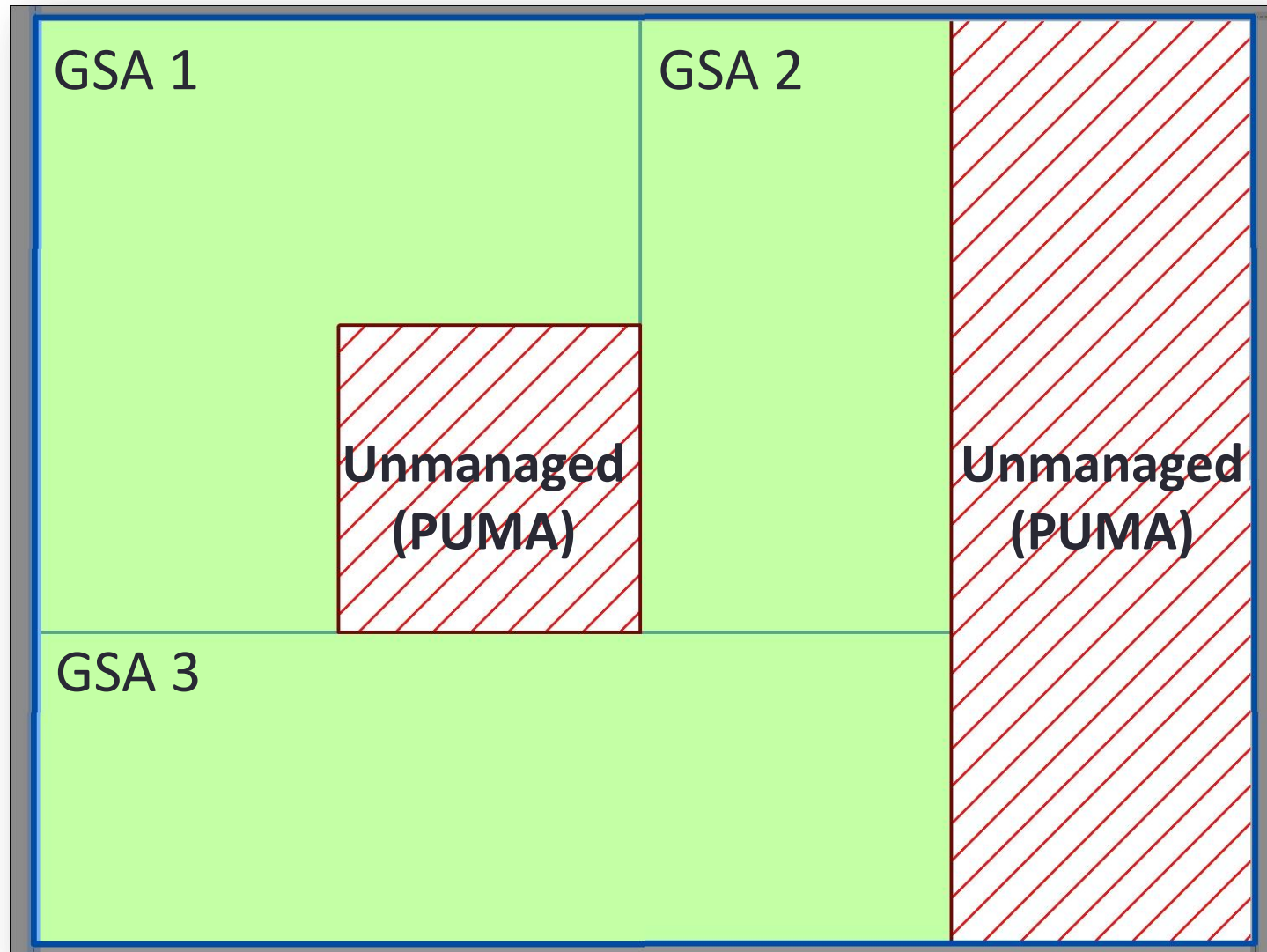
- The State Backstop
 - Data Manager
 - Basin Manager

- Coordination with DWR
 - Communication
 - Outreach
 - Regulation development
 - Implementation of the backstop

Role as Data Manager: Potentially Un-Managed Areas (PUMAs)

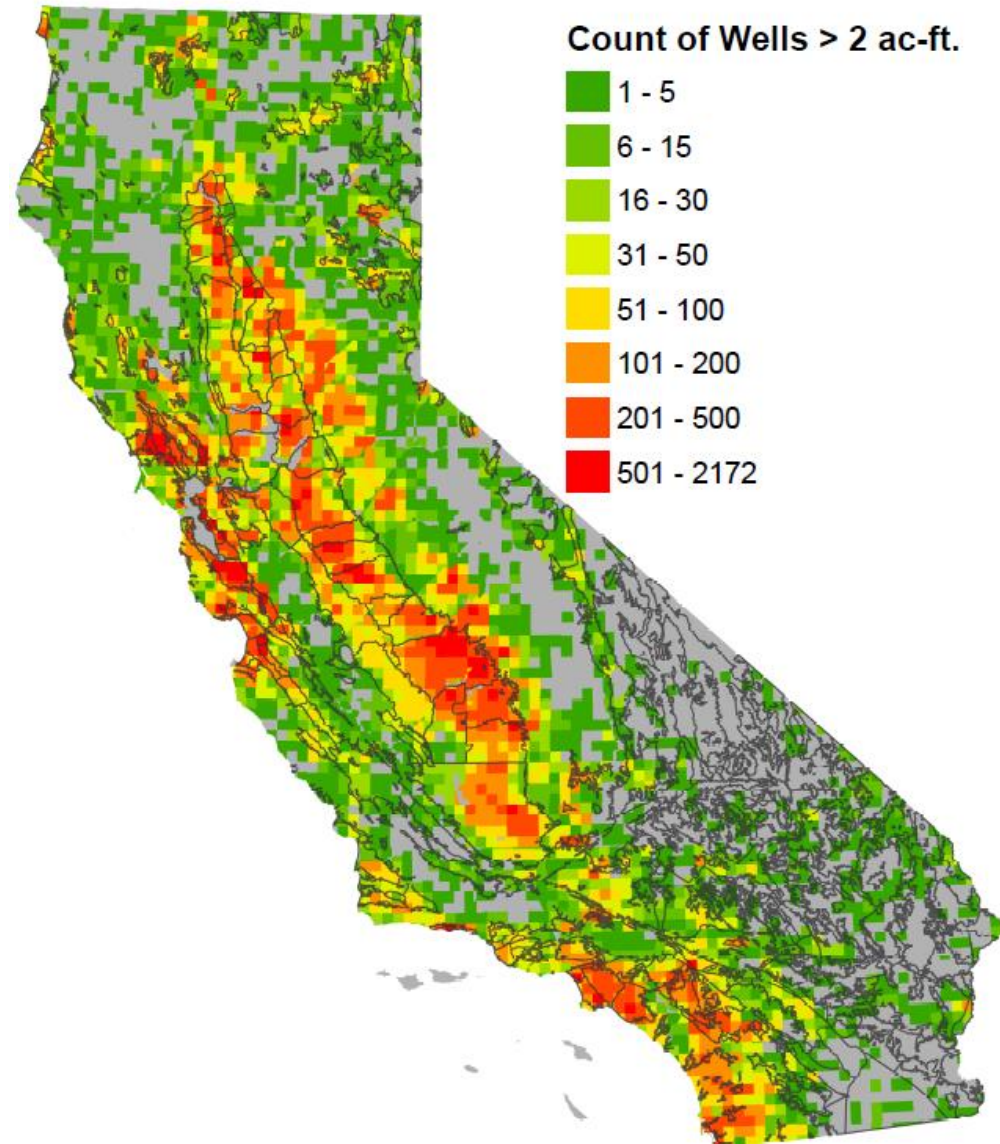
- First backstop role for Board is data collection (July 1, 2017)
- Groundwater users in PUMAs report to State Board (Water Code §5203)
 - Place of extraction
 - Monthly records of volume of extractions
 - Purpose of use
 - *Any other info required to designate a basin as probationary and write interim plans*

Conceptual Groundwater Basin



Reporting System Needs

- Electronic reporting system to collect PUMA data
- Data need for interim plans
- Track fees
- Public interface



Scoping, IT
business analysis
process,
coordination with
DWR

2015

2016

2017

Beta testing by
January 1,
2017 and
revisions as
necessary

Functional
by July 1,
2017

Stakeholder outreach
process by winter 2016.

Start bidding process, select
vendor, system design by
summer 2016

Data System Development

Role as Basin Manager

Develop fees to support basin management

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graph TD; A[Develop fees to support basin management] --> B[Designate probationary basins]; B --> C[Probationary basins lead to interim sustainability plans]; C --> D[Interim plans manage basins until local efforts come up to speed];
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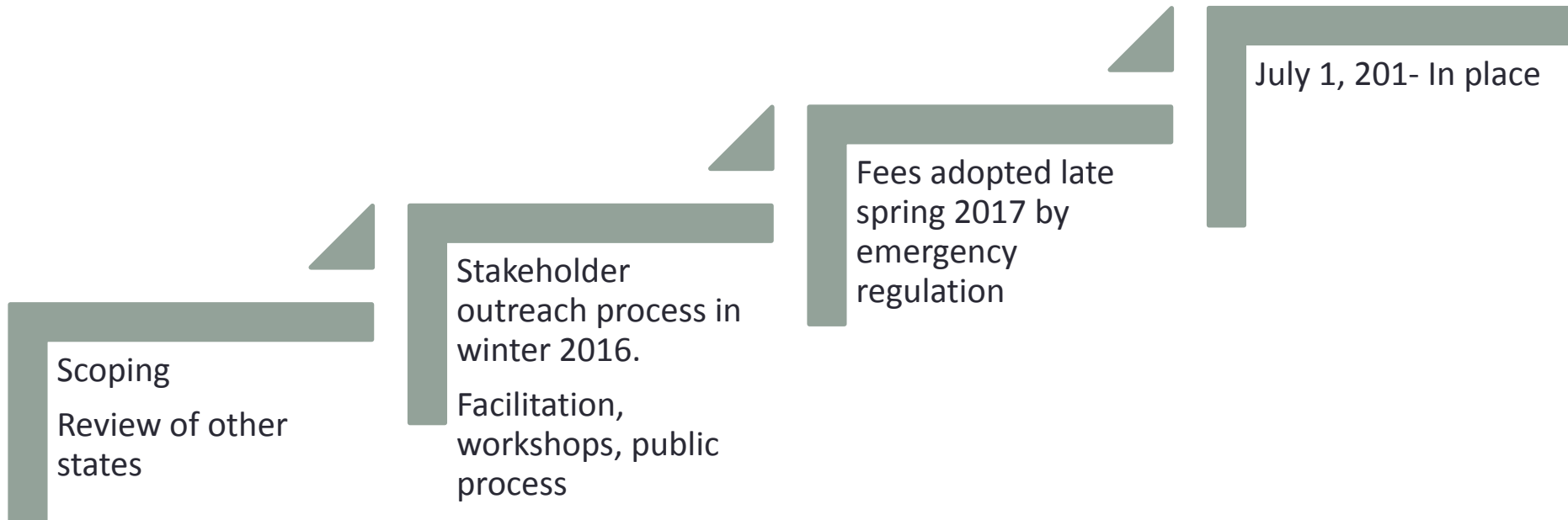
Designate probationary basins

Probationary basins lead to interim sustainability plans

Interim plans manage basins until local efforts come up to speed

Fees

- Cover all costs related to backstop
 - Facilitation, investigation, monitoring, hearings, enforcement, administration
 - PUMA reporting and participation in Board hearings
- Fees need to be in place with data reporting system



DWR Key Events 2015-2017

- Finalize basin priorities (January 31, 2015)
- Regulations on Revising Bulletin 118 Basin Boundaries (January 1, 2016)
- Regulations on how Groundwater Sustainability Plans and alternatives will be evaluated (June 1, 2016)
- Report on water available for groundwater recharge (December 31, 2016)
- Identify Best Management Practices for sustainable groundwater management (January 1, 2017)
- Revise basin priorities to incorporate environmental factors
- Bulletin 118 “Interim Update” (2017)
- Bulletin 118 Comprehensive Update (2020)

SWRCB & DWR Coordination

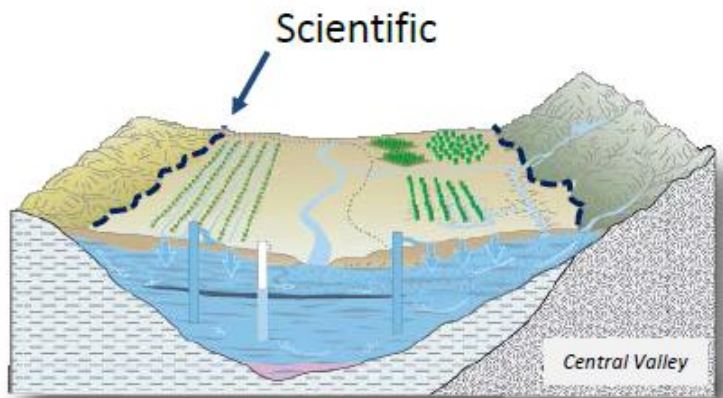
- Six Coordination Teams
 - Planning and Management
 - Communication
 - Data Management
 - GSP Regulations (Technical Team)
 - GSP Regulations (Coordination Team)
 - Prop 1
- Monthly “SGMA Coordination Memo”
- Consultation and input on other interagency activities, but without formal coordination team

Other DWR Activities

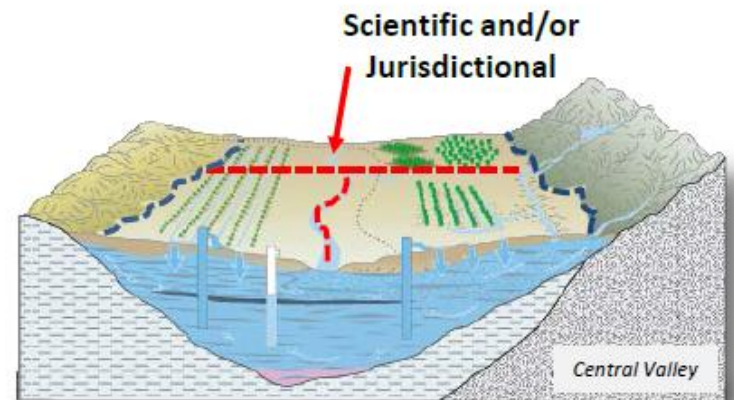
- Basin Boundary Regulations
- Identification of Basins in Critical Overdraft
- Update Basin Priorities
- Communication and Outreach
- Facilitation services for GSA formation

Basin Boundary Regulations

- Draft released July 15, public comments due Sept 4th
- Several types:
 - Administrative corrections (DWR internal process)
 - Local requests (scientific)
 - Local requests (jurisdictional)

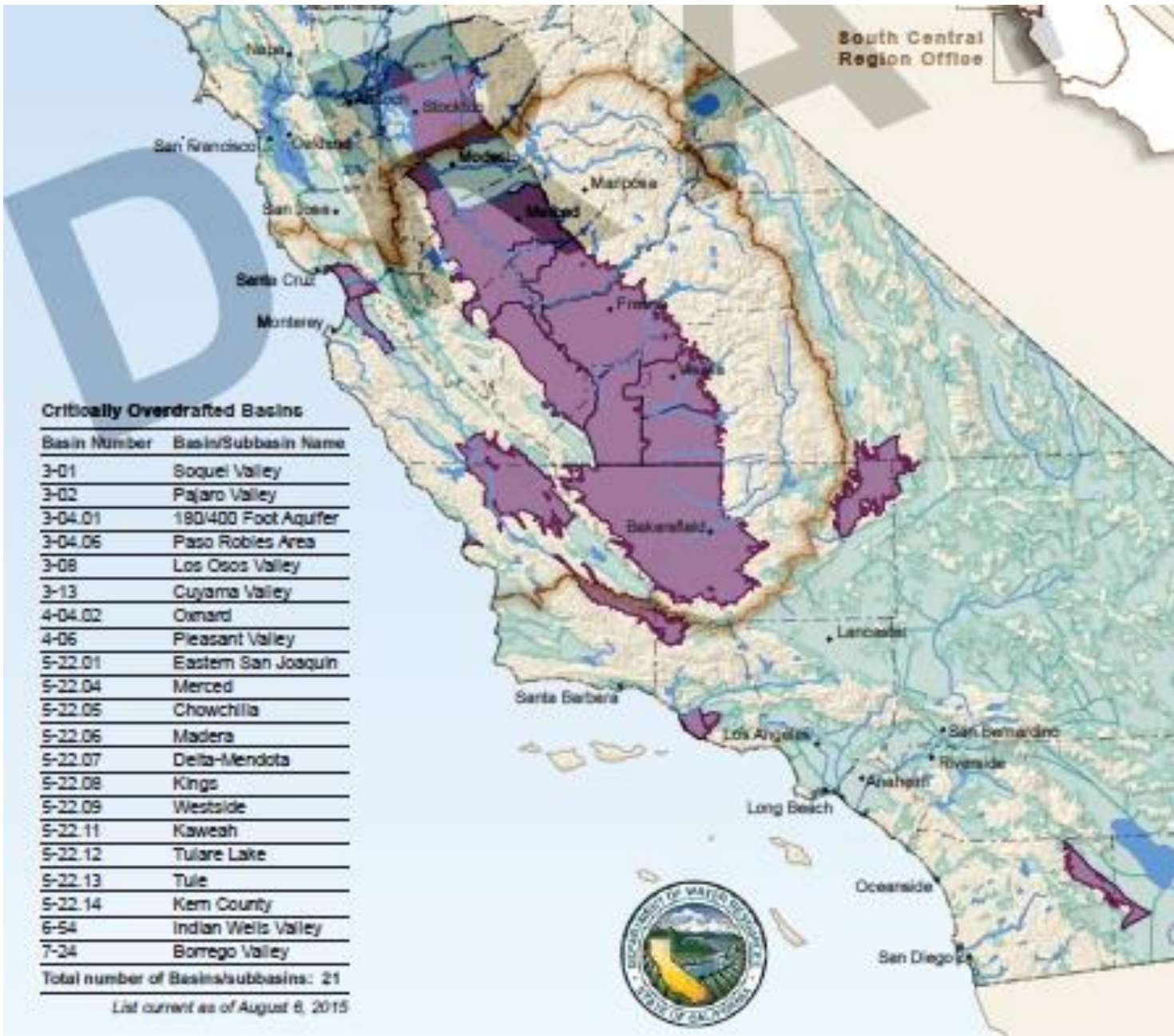


Modified from Faunt, 2009



Modified from Faunt, 2009

Figures from DWR



Critically Overdrafted Basins

Basin Number	Basin/Subbasin Name
3-01	Soquel Valley
3-02	Pajaro Valley
3-04.01	180/400 Foot Aquifer
3-04.06	Paso Robles Area
3-08	Los Osos Valley
3-13	Cuyama Valley
4-04.02	Oxnard
4-06	Pleasant Valley
5-22.01	Eastern San Joaquin
5-22.04	Merced
5-22.05	Chowchilla
5-22.06	Madera
5-22.07	Delta-Mendota
5-22.08	Kings
5-22.09	Westside
5-22.11	Kaweah
5-22.12	Tulare Lake
5-22.13	Tule
5-22.14	Kern County
6-54	Indian Wells Valley
7-24	Borrego Valley
Total number of Basins/subbasins: 21	

List current as of August 8, 2015



Groundwater Sustainability Plan Regulations

- Regulations due June 1, 2016
- Key component of SGMA
 - Describes what elements will be required in a sustainability plan, and how DWR will review submitted plans
 - Also set framework for what constitutes an 'insufficient' plan, e.g., how SWRCB intervention is triggered
- DWR has identified 10 key elements of a sustainability plan
- Conducting stakeholder advisory meetings now, will hold series of public meetings to discuss groups of key elements.

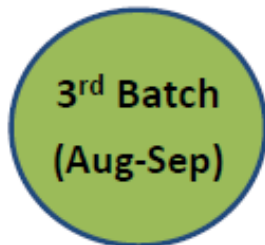
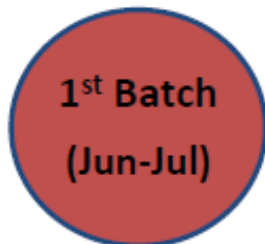
GSP Issue Topics for Regulation Development

Phase 1 –
Scoping
(Collection
of Issues)



Phase 2 –
Draft

Discussion
Papers and
Public
Listening
Sessions



Groundwater Sustainability Plans

- Public meetings on Batch 2 and 3
 - August 27th, 2-4 pm, Sierra Hearing Room, CalEPA
 - September 21st, 2-4 pm, Sierra Hearing Room, CalEPA
- GMU and DWR have developed a GSP Regulation team to help coordinate regulation development
- DWR anticipates draft in late 2015 or early 2016

Thank You!

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Additional Information:

www.groundwater.ca.gov

DWR – www.water.ca.gov/groundwater

State Board –

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/gmp/index.shtml

Lyris email alert list:

http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/resources/email_subscriptions/swrcb_subscribe.shtml

