

SGMA Summary

April 1, 2016

- **Where** – Basins identified through CASGEM as “High” and “Medium” priority. These include 127 of the 515 alluvial basins in California.
 - o The CASGEM prioritization is based on the *importance* of groundwater to a basin and does not necessarily reflect the *condition* of the basin.
 - o **See a PDF map of priority basins [here](#) or work with the interactive CASGEM Groundwater Basin Prioritization map [here](#).**
- **Who** – A local agency, or group of local agencies, with water or land use responsibilities (usually a water district, flood control district, city, county, or other similar agency) can decide to become the Groundwater Sustainability Agency.
 - o To become the GSA, the local agency (or group of agencies) must notify DWR that it intends to become the Groundwater Sustainability Agency. DWR will then post the notification on its website and 90 days later the local agency(ies) is the GSA so long as no other local agency also submits a notification for the same area.
 - o The GSA will be the entity with the authority and obligation to develop and implement the Groundwater Sustainability Plan.
 - o A County can be the “backup” GSA, but only if the County affirmatively notifies DWR that it intends to be the GSA.
 - o **See a list of agencies that have notified DWR [here](#) and an interactive map [here](#).**
- **What** – Each basin must develop a Groundwater Sustainability Plan that will achieve groundwater sustainability within 20 years.
 - o Groundwater Sustainability is achieved by avoiding “undesirable results,” which are defined as a significant and unreasonable:
 - Depletion of supply due to chronic lowering of groundwater levels
 - Reduction of groundwater storage
 - Seawater intrusion
 - Degraded water quality
 - Subsidence that interferes with surface land uses
 - Interference with beneficial uses of surface water
 - o **Follow development of Groundwater Sustainability Plan regulations [here](#).**
- **When** – Deadlines must be met or a basin will be deemed out of compliance and the SWRCB can step in and develop and implement a sustainability plan for you.
 - o Form GSA June 31, 2017.
 - o Adopt GSP – 21 [Critically Overdrafted Basin](#): January 31, 2020
 - o Adopt GSP – All other basins: January 31, 2022
- **Stay Updated! Get Engaged!**
 - o Sign up for DWR’s Sustainable Groundwater Management Mailing List [here](#).
 - o Follow the Groundwater Act Blog (promoted by DWR) [here](#).
 - o Stay updated on all manner of water news at Maven’s Notebook [here](#).
- **Resources:**
 - o DWR [Website on SGMA](#)
 - o DWR [Water Management Planning Tool](#) – GIS map with numerous layers that can be toggled off and on.
 - o Water Education Foundation [Handbook](#) on SGMA
 - o Basins in Critical Condition of Overdraft ([site](#), [map](#), [list](#))