

SGMA Overview

Rolling Hills Casino, April 5th, 2019

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Supervising Engineering Geologist
DWR Northern Region Office

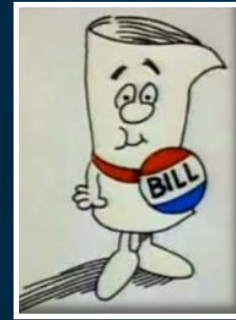


CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER
MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Presentation Overview

- SGMA Legislation
- Groundwater Basins and Basin Prioritization
- Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs)
- Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs)
- Timeline
- DWR Roles

2014 Sustainable Groundwater Management Legislation



- **AB 1739: Dickinson**
- **SB 1168: Pavley**
- **SB 1319: Pavley**

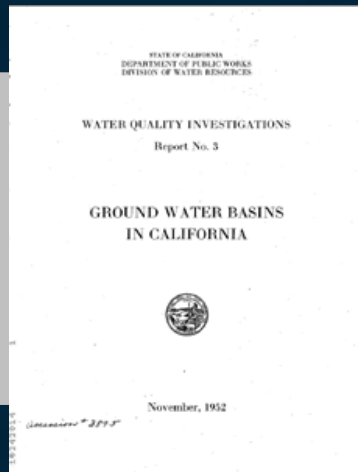
Key Guiding Principle:

Sustainable groundwater management is best achieved locally



Groundwater Basins - DWR's Bulletin 118

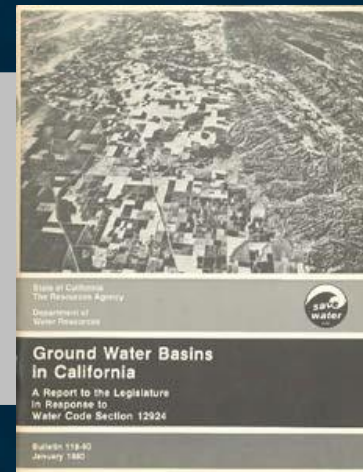
- Bulletin 118 is California's official publication on the occurrence and nature of groundwater statewide.
- Bulletin 118 defines the basins and subbasins and describes the hydrologic characteristics of California's groundwater basins.



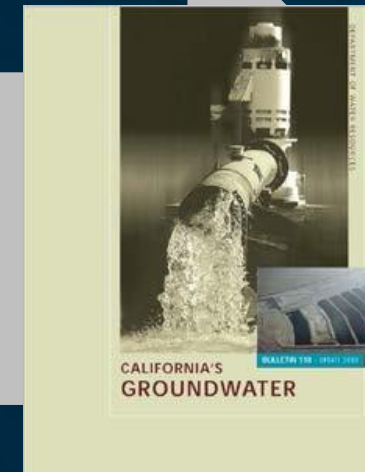
1952



Bulletin 118
1975



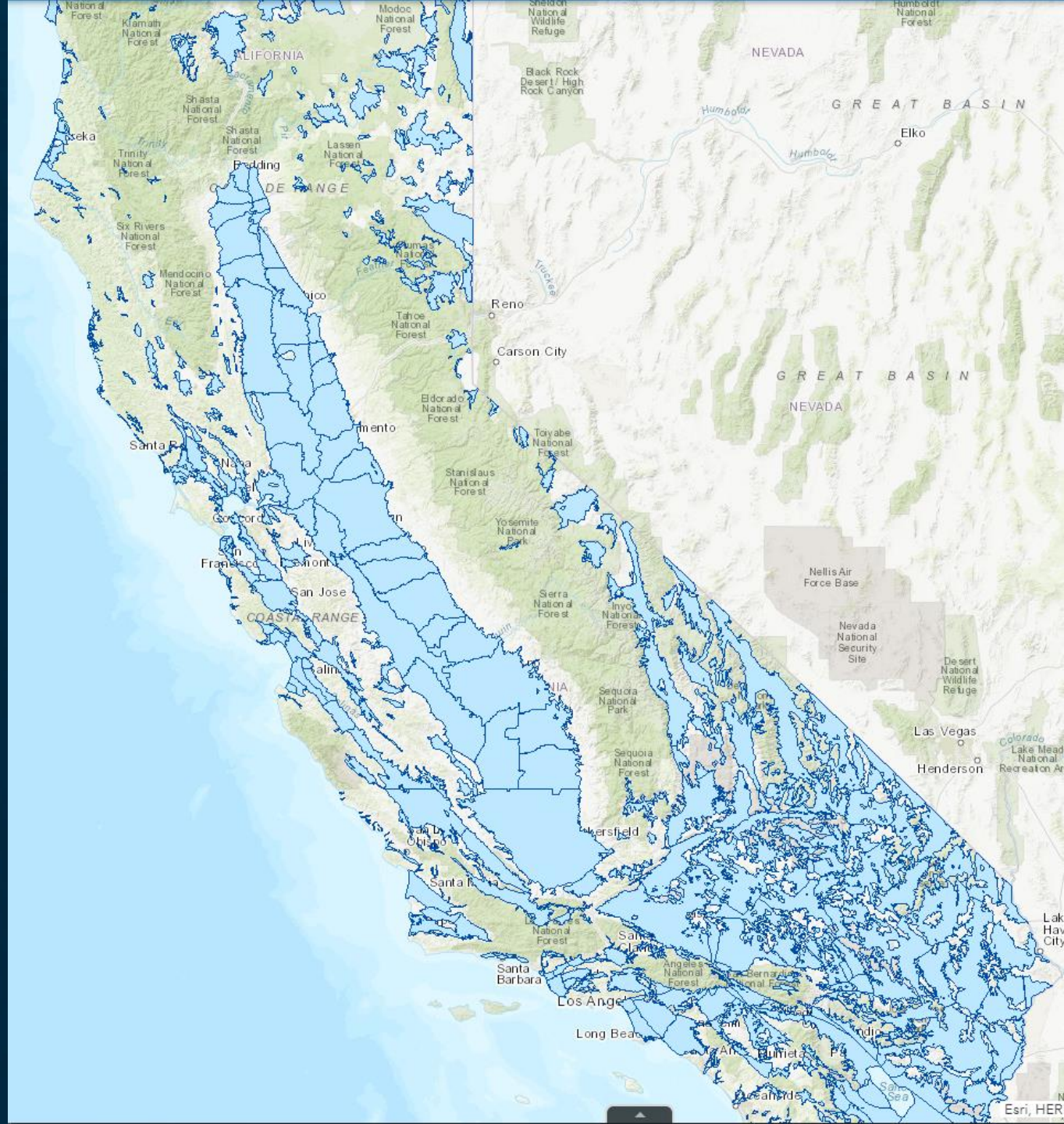
Bulletin 118
1980



Bulletin 118
2003

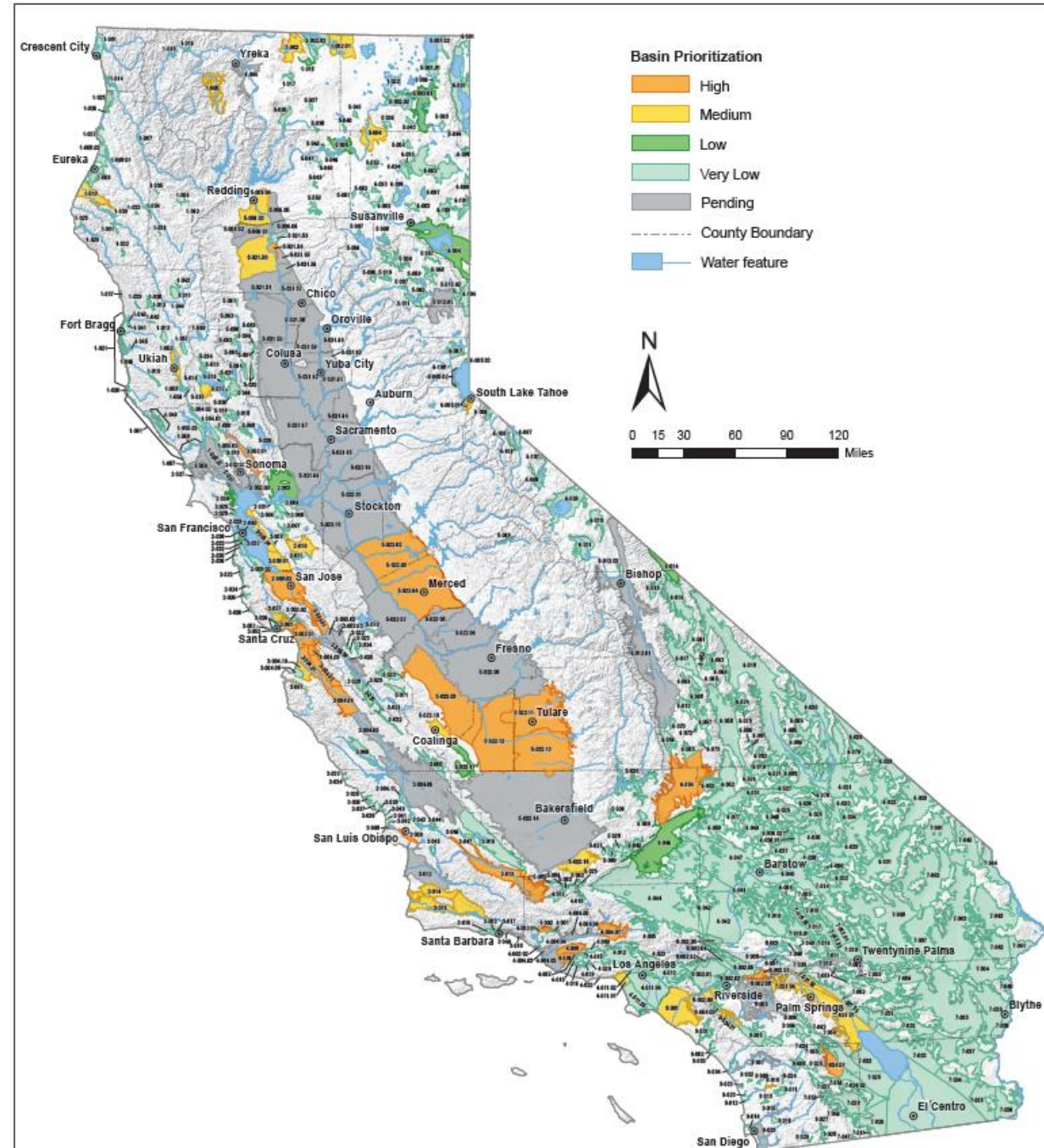
California's Groundwater Basins

515 Alluvial Groundwater
Basins



Basin Prioritization

- SGMA applies to medium and high priority groundwater basins
- 127 Medium and High Priority Basins



Sustainable Groundwater Management

What does this mean?

sus·tain·a·bil·i·ty

/səˌstānəˈbɪlədē/

noun

the ability to be maintained at a certain rate or level.

Groundwater basins must be managed to avoid *undesirable results*.



Undesirable Results

1. Chronic lowering of groundwater levels
2. Reduction of groundwater storage
3. Seawater intrusion
4. Degraded water quality
5. Land subsidence
6. Depletions of interconnected surface water and groundwater

Sustainability Indicators



Lowering
GW Levels



Reduction
of Storage



Seawater
Intrusion



Degraded
Quality



Land
Subsidence



Surface Water
Depletion

Groundwater Sustainability Agencies and Groundwater Sustainability Plans



SGMA requires that all medium and high priority groundwater basins:

- Be managed by one or more Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) by June 30, 2017
- And that the GSA(s) develop a Groundwater Sustainability Plan(s) (GSP) by Jan 31, 2022. (Critically overdrafted basins must have their GSPs completed by Jan 31, 2020)

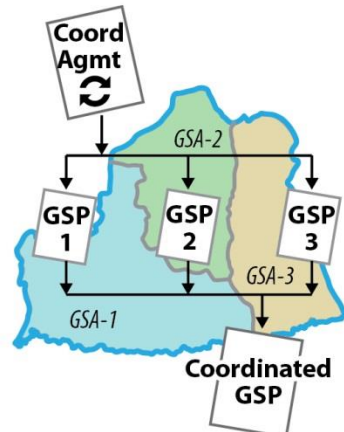
One GSA, One GSP



Multiple GSAs, One GSP with single Coordination Agreement



Multiple GSAs, Multiple GSPs with single Coordination Agreement



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GSA Roles and Responsibilities



1. SGMA is a law.
 - Foundational change to groundwater management in California
2. SGMA allows for significant Local Control
3. GSAs are required to:
 - Develop GSPs
 - Perform Public Engagement
4. GSAs are new, local government, Regulating Agencies



Authorities

GSA Roles and Responsibilities

1. General:

- Do anything “necessary and proper” to carry out SGMA’s purposes
- Adopt rules, regulations, ordinances, and resolutions

2. Perform Investigations Related to:

- The need for groundwater management
- To implement rules and regulations in their GSP
- Propose and update fees
- Monitor compliance and enforcement



Authorities (continued)

3. Groundwater Extraction Oversight

- Require registration of wells
- Require well measurement devices and reporting

4. Property Acquisition and Management

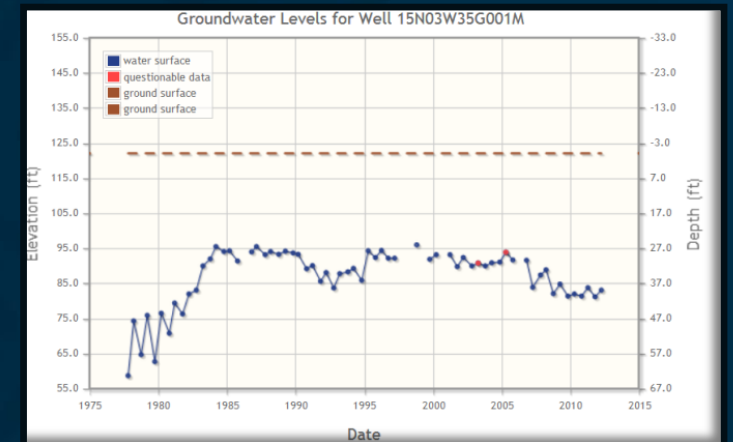
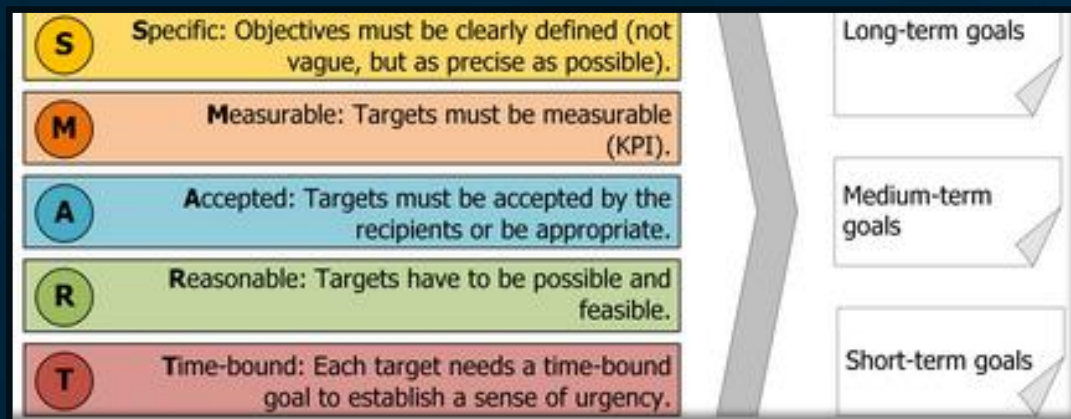
- Acquire property
- Appropriate and acquire surface water or groundwater rights
- Provide a fallowing program
- Perform acts necessary or proper to purchase, transfer, deliver, or exchange water or water rights

GSA Roles and Responsibilities



Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) REQUIREMENTS

- Description of physical setting
- Identification of groundwater conditions: (levels, quality, subsidence, surface water - groundwater interaction)
- Historic and projected water demands and supplies
- Maps showing agency boundaries, management areas, groundwater recharge areas etc.
- Minimum Thresholds and Measurable Objectives with Interim Milestones (every 5 yrs) to achieve sustainability in 20 yrs.



Timeline for Sustainable Management



- By 2017, local groundwater sustainability agencies (GSAs) must be identified
- By 2022, non-critically overdrafted high and medium basins must be covered by a groundwater sustainability plan (GSP)
- Yearly reporting and GSP Updates every 5 years, must demonstrate progress towards sustainability
- By 2042, each high & medium priority basin must have achieved sustainability



SGMA Intended Outcomes/Expectations

- Enhance local groundwater management consistent with existing water rights
- Avoid the six undesirable results
- Improve data collection and understanding about groundwater
- Determine sustainable yield and sustainably manage our groundwater basins



Who is affected by SGMA?

All Beneficial Users (Water Code §10723.2)

- All Groundwater Users
- Holders of Overlying Rights (agriculture and domestic)
- Municipal Well Operators
- Public Water Systems
- Tribes
- Local Land Use Planning Agencies
- Counties
- Local Landowners
- Disadvantaged Communities
- Businesses
- Federal Government
- Environmental Users
- Surface Water Users



Summary of DWR's Roles

- Region Coordinator and Basin Points of Contact
- Administer GSA Formation, Basin Prioritization, and Basin Boundary Modification
- Administer and Fund Facilitation Services – Meeting and outreach support
- Provide Technical Services – Monitoring wells, groundwater modeling, well logging, technical training etc.
- Create and Administer Databases – Water Data Library, CDEC, CIMIS, CASGEM, SGMA Data Viewer



Summary of DWR's Roles (continued)



- Developed and published Best Management Practices and Guidance Documents (6 of each)
- Manage and administer grant projects (Prop 1 and 68)
- Review final GSPs – and approve or deny the plans
- Review of sustainable groundwater management into the future governed by the GSPs

Join our SGMA email list for updates at:

DWR_SGMP@LISTSERVICE.CNRA.CA.GOV

- Contact Pat Vellines (530) 529–7344 for Northern Region
Patricia.Vellines@water.ca.gov
- Contact Paul Wells (916) 376-9656 for North Central Region
Paul.Wells@water.ca.gov

Next.....The State Water Resources
Control Board

Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) Update



04/05/2019

Groundwater Management Program

“ Groundwater **management**
in California is best
accomplished **locally.** ”

Former Governor Jerry Brown

“ Where a local groundwater sustainability agency is not managing its groundwater sustainably, **the state needs to protect the resource** until... a local groundwater sustainability agency can sustainably manage the groundwater basin.”

Board Backstop Basics

- 1 Board only steps in when local efforts fail.
- 2 Temporarily protects the basin until locals come up-to-speed.
- 3 Backstop is triggered by SGMA deadlines.



TRIGGERING the BACKSTOP

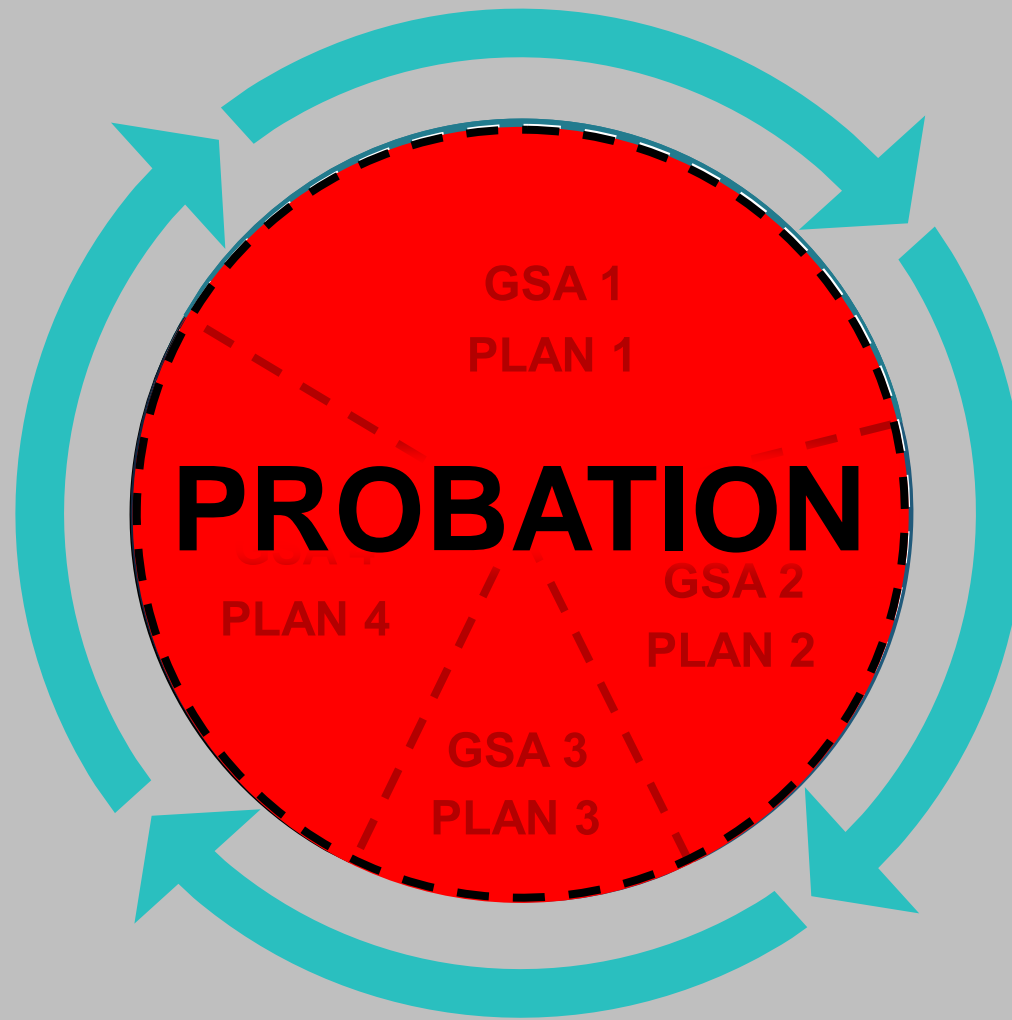
After January 2022



Basin not
covered by
plan(s)

OR

No
coordination
agreement



Probationary groundwater BASIN



State Water Board makes decisions for locals



Board gathers data



May require meters



Opportunity to fix issues



Groundwater extraction reports

Pumpers report directly to the Board annually.

- 1 Well location and capacity**
- 2 Monthly extraction volumes**
- 3 Place and purpose of use**

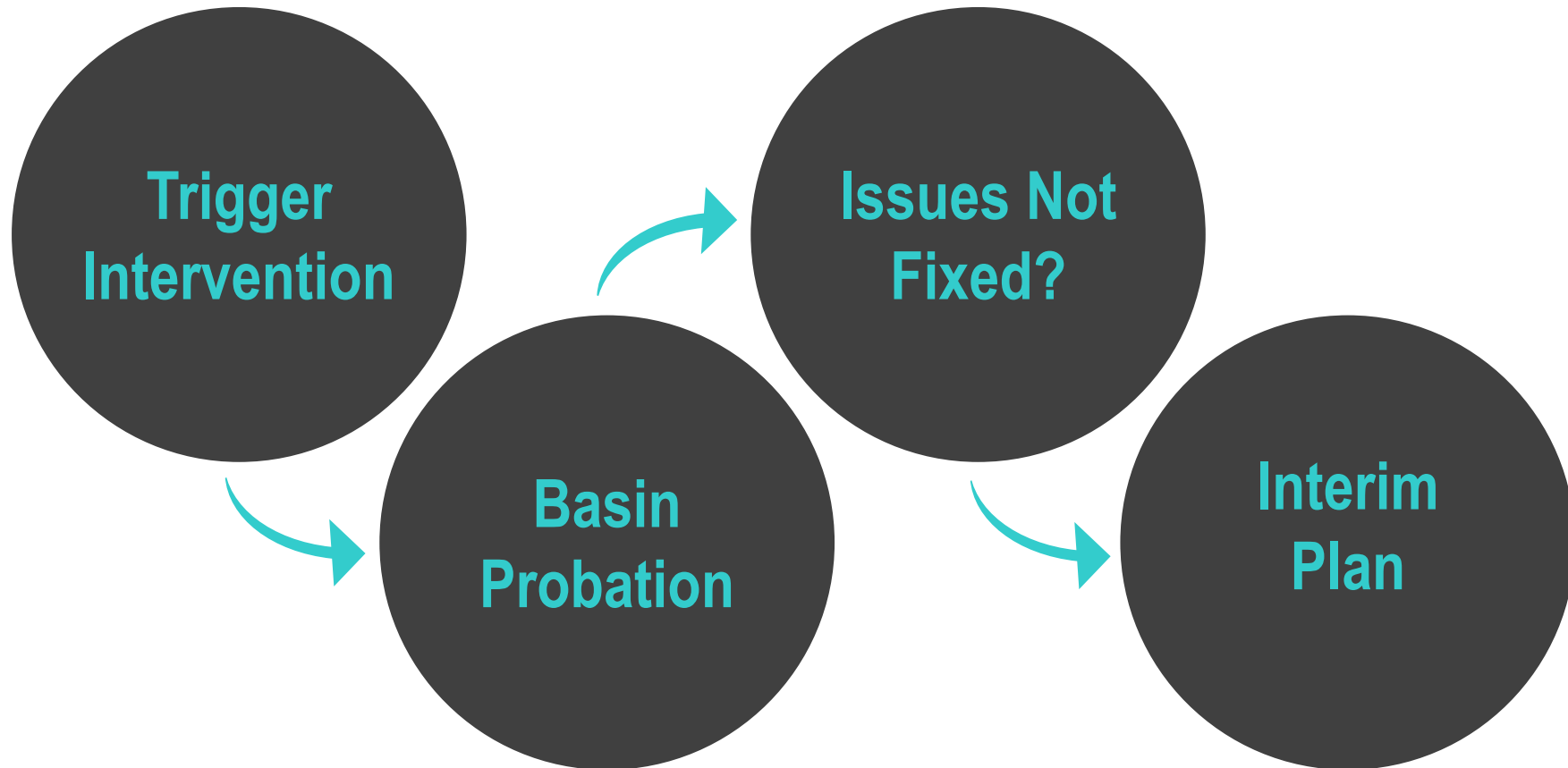
Each extraction report will have a fee.

FEES – Pumpers who have to report



*special studies extra

Backstop





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Former Governor Jerry Brown

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Groundwater Management Program
www.waterboards.ca.gov/gmp