Toward Sustainable Groundwater in Agriculture

Goals vs. Local Reality

Critically Overdrafted Groundwater Basins

Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency
- Created by legislation in 1984
- Meters in 1993 first BMP and all Ag water meters
- Santa Cruz & Monterey Counties
- Local Board
  - 4 Elected
  - 3 Appointed
- 28,000 irrigated acres
- 900 Ag Wells — all metered
- 3 law suits
- Recycled water distributed to farms

Increased groundwater volumes in the Central Valley
Stanford, June 27, 2016

3 X more groundwater - 2,188,927,800 ac. ft.
Fallow 600,000 acres under SGMA

What Could Possibly Go Wrong?
- Conflicting Jurisdictions
- Agency Turf Wars
- Tax Payers
- Farmers
- No Changes to Water Rights
- Litigation
- Adjudication
- Short Deadlines

Proposed Overlapping GSA

Salinas Valley
Timeline

- GSA formation complete: June 30, 2017
- GSP for Critically Overdrafted Basins: January 31, 2020
- GSP for High & Medium Priority Basins: January 31, 2022

DWR evaluation & assessment

- GSA basin modification, overlap and formation
- GSP

Financing

- Agency needs to go through 218 election
  - How many times
    1. Formation
    2. Write Management Plan
    3. Implement Plan
    4. CEQA required

- State Probationary Status
  - Failure to Complete Formation by June, 2017
  - Failure to adopt a GSP by January, 2010

- Litigation Status
  - Litigation stays Probationary Status (§10735.2 (d))

Adjudication

- Gordian Knot: The intractable problem
- The Brexit Solution: Self imposed barrier to success
- Waiver or Stay of Probationary Status

High & Medium Priority Basins

The CWC requires a statewide prioritization of California’s groundwater basins using the following eight criteria:

1. Overlying population;
2. Projected growth of overlying population;
3. Public supply wells;
4. Total wells;
5. Overlying irrigated acreage;
6. Reliance on groundwater as the primary source of water;
7. Impacts on the groundwater; including overdraft; subsidence; saline intrusion, and other water quality degradation; and
8. Any other information determined to be relevant by the Department.

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SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER