



Towards Sustainable Groundwater in Agriculture
 June 15-17
 Session B.7: Policy Drivers of Groundwater Management

Policy and Economic Drivers in California which Affect Groundwater Management and Sustainability in Agricultural Regions

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Overview

- California Water Resources
- Groundwater Policy Framework
- Funding and Financing California Groundwater and Conjunctive Use Projects
- Trends, Constraints and Opportunities



California Water Resources Critical Time

- Aging infrastructure
- Ecosystems stress and impaired water bodies
- Groundwater overdraft
- Increased competition between users and regions
 - Litigation
 - Price of water
- Climate change
- Global and local government financial crisis



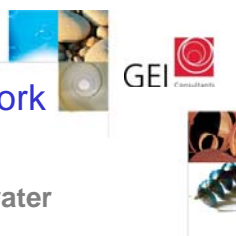
California Water Resources Technical Framework

- Geography matters
 - Areas of origin: Watersheds
 - Groundwater Basins
 - Surface storage
 - Importing water
 - Delta: CVP and SWP
 - Colorado River: LA Aqueduct, All American Canal
- History of conjunctive use and GW banking

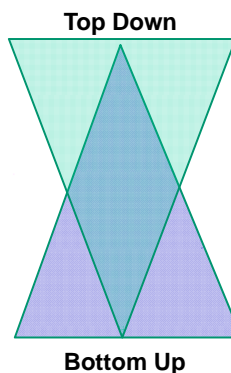


California Water Resources Policy/Institutional Framework

- California Constitution
- Distinct surface and groundwater rights
- Separate authorities
 - **State Level:** water supply and water quality management and regulation
 - **Local/Regional level:** land use planning and water management
- Diversity of management agencies



California Water Resources Planning Framework



- California Water Plan 2009
- Water Quality Control Plans

Integrated Regional Water Management Plans

- Groundwater Management Plans
- City/County General Plans



California Water Resources Groundwater

- 515 groundwater basins statewide
- Total overdraft 1-2 MAF
- 35% of average year supply, > 40% in dry years
- 13 M people, 43 % of states population served in part by GW
- Water quality impacts and impairment



Groundwater Management Methods/Approaches

- Legislative/Statutory Authority
- Adjudication
- Local Ordinance
- Groundwater Management Plans



Groundwater Management Key Legislation

- Groundwater Management and Planning Act (AB3030 as amended by SB1938)
- Urban Water Management Act (1995 as amended)
- Senate Bills 610 and 221 (2001)
- Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act Of 2000
- Integrated Regional Water Management Planning Act (2008)



Groundwater Management Funding

- Proposition 204
- Proposition 13 (2000), \$230 M for groundwater related grants and loans
- Proposition 50 (2002) \$500 M IRWMP activities, planning and implementation funds
- Proposition 84 (2006)- \$1,000,000,000 for IRWMPs



Groundwater Management Funding

- DWR's Local Groundwater Management Assistance Grant Program
 - \$38.5 M from 2001-09
 - Seven Cycles
 - 179 Projects
 - 127 projects in progress
 - Next cycle Fall of 2010 (\$4.7 M)
- DWR Conjunctive Water Management Branch Technical Support Program

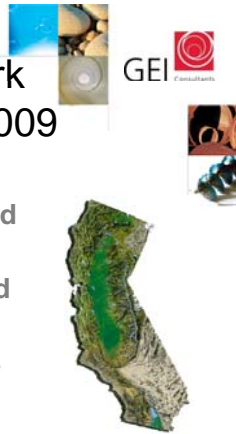


Strategic Policy Framework California Water Plan 2009



Management Framework California Water Plan 2009

- Strategic plan to guide statewide and local efforts and investments
- Reviews water 'portfolios' and budgets
- Responses and opportunities
 - Resource management strategies
 - Integrated Regional Water Management



Trends

- Integrated water management
- Regional planning with emphasis on local management
- State role- strategic planning, guidance and funding support
- Water quality protection
- Sustainability, environmental stewardship
- Greater efforts to deal with risk and uncertainty



Constraints and Opportunities for Ag Districts

- Increased on farm and district costs- what is the limit?
- Inability to raise revenues or rates
 - local government and local districts to generate revenues (P13 and P218)
 - Continued dependence on grant funding
 - State and Federal budget constraints
- Groundwater law- it really isn't yours until you adjudicate, and even then.....
- Take advantage of the opportunity to preserve local control. Use it or lose it.....



Constraints and Opportunities for Ag Districts

- Be an 'activist' stakeholder
- Be entrepreneurial through your agencies and organizations
- Play the CEQA and land use game
- Know the price points for water
- Recognize the 'ability and willingness to pay' reality

