



**Association
of California
Water Agencies**
Since 1910
Leadership • Advocacy
Information • Service

Recommendations for Achieving Groundwater Sustainability



Workshop to Develop Input on Groundwater Legislative Proposal: Proposed Solutions
Wednesday, April 16, 2014 – 9:00 a.m.

Timothy Quinn, ACWA Executive Director
David Orth, Vice-Chair ACWA Groundwater Sustainability Task Force

ACWA Groundwater Management Policy Principles and Groundwater Framework

- California's groundwater management challenges have been decades in the making and will be with us long after the drought ends
- March 2009 Groundwater Management Policy Principles adopted by ACWA Board
- April 2011 Groundwater Framework adopted by ACWA Board



ACWA Groundwater Sustainability Task Force

ACWA Board-Level Task Force
created November 2013

Chair, Randy Record



Vice chair, Dave Orth



Members:

Randy Record, Chair
David Orth, Vice Chair
Roland Sanford, Region 1
Stan Wangberg, Region 2
Bill George, Region 3
Rob Roscoe, Region 4
Jill Duerig, Region 5
Matthew Hurley, Region 6
William Taube, Region 7
Michael Touhey, Region 8
Craig Ewing, Region 9
Gary Arant, Region 10
Greg Zlotnick, Groundwater
Committee Chair
Thad Bettner, Water Management
Committee Chair

ACWA Groundwater Sustainability Task Force

- Purpose:

 - Develop ACWA's Recommendations for Achieving Sustainable Groundwater Management, building on 2011 Groundwater Framework

- Assure local control for sustainable outcomes

 - New local management tools

 - Defined requirements

 - Role of state, if locals default

ACWA Groundwater Sustainability Policy Objectives

- ✓ Enhance Local Management
- ✓ Establish Mandatory Minimum Groundwater Management Plan Requirements and Increased Authorities
- ✓ Avoid or Minimize Subsidence
- ✓ Assess Groundwater Connection to Surface Waters
- ✓ Improve Data Availability
- ✓ Increase Groundwater Storage
- ✓ Remove Impediments to Recharge
- ✓ Do No Harm
- ✓ Reassess Surface Water Reallocations
- ✓ Provide State Financial and Technical Assistance
- ✓ Provide a “Backstop”



Recommended Administrative and State Legislative Actions

1. Adopt State Definition of Sustainable Groundwater Management

"Sustainable groundwater management" is the management and use of groundwater in a manner that can be maintained during the planning and implementation horizon without causing unacceptable related environmental, economic or social consequences through the development, implementation and updating of plans and programs based on the best available science, monitoring, forecasting and use of technological resources.

Require locally-relevant indicators and performance metrics

2. Prioritize Unmanaged Basins or Subbasins

Recommended Administrative and State Legislative Actions - continued

3. Adopt Uniform Minimum Requirements for Groundwater Management Plans and Implementation

- a) Planning Boundary (Bulletin 118 basins and subbasins)
- b) Plan Standards (SB 1938)
- c) Compliance Requirements (GMPs for “medium” or “high” priority basins within 5 years)
- d) Sustainability Timeframe (20 years – 50 year planning horizon)
- e) Groundwater Extraction Prohibition (without a GMP)
- f) Technical Review and Approval (by DWR)
- g) Performance Reporting (to DWR annually)
- h) Performance Review (by SWRCB for “High” and “Medium” priority basins every 5 years)

Recommended Administrative and State Legislative Actions - continued

4. Develop Best Management Practices

DWR to develop BMPs guidebook, including:

- a) Illustrative Quantifiable Basin Management Objectives
- b) Subbasin Boundary Adjustment
- c) Groundwater Monitoring
- d) Well Permitting
- e) Groundwater Recharge
- f) Sustainability Indicators
- g) Overdraft Measures
- h) Public Review Process
- i) Governance Structures
- j) Data Collection and Reporting
- k) Demand Management

Recommended Administrative and State Legislative Actions - continued

5. Enhance Local and Regional Agency Authority

Local and regional groundwater management agencies statewide should be granted all of the following authorities:

- a) Groundwater Management Fees
- b) Groundwater Allocation and Extraction Limits
- c) Well Permitting
- d) New "Summary Proceeding" Enforcement Capability
- e) Water Availability Determinations
- f) GMP Consistency Determinations
- g) Expedited LAFCO Formation Assistance

Recommended Administrative and State Legislative Actions - continued

6. Ensure Adequate Funding

- ✓ SWRCB and DWR to use Governor's proposed budget
- ✓ Local agencies fee-based, with grants and loans
- ✓ Opposed to statewide water user fee or "public goods charge"
- ✓ Water Bond for storage incentive funding

7. Provide for State Backstop Authority When Local Action Has Not Occurred or Has Been Insufficient

- ✓ No management entity or GMP, or for compliance failure: SWRCB hearing
- ✓ Qualified local agency (with compliance schedule) or qualified third party to prepare and implement GMP
- ✓ Fees to cover costs
- ✓ Return to local management on demonstration of capacity

Recommended Administrative and State Legislative Actions - continued

8. Remove Impediments to Water Supply Reliability

- ✓ Conjunctive management of surface water resources is essential
- ✓ SWRCB and DWR to identify impediments and regulatory barriers for more water transfers, increase stormwater and recycled water recharge, and facilitate new surface and groundwater storage and conveyance

Contact & More Information

Timothy Quinn, Executive Director
Association of California Water Agencies

daveb@acwa.com

916.441.4545 • www.acwa.com