



STANFORD WOODS INSTITUTE
FOR THE ENVIRONMENT
THE BILL LANE CENTER FOR
THE AMERICAN WEST



Stanford LawSchool | Martin Daniel Gould Center
for Conflict Resolution Programs

DECISION-MAKING IN THE SGMA CONTEXT: Tools to Support Sustainable Groundwater Management Decisions

June 3, 2016

Workshop Goals and Objectives:

This workshop is the third in a four-part series. Based on learning from the first two data workshops, it is clear that many groundwater basins across the state lack basic data or information to make effective management decisions. In addition, many basins that have adequate data lack the tools¹ necessary to access and integrate data from multiple sources and to communicate them in a way that is useful to decision makers (e.g., board members, the public). Using interactive scoping and plenary discussion, this workshop will identify the approaches or tools that groundwater managers need to make management decisions, even with limited data, under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA).

Workshop participants will:

1. In an interactive scoping exercise, develop a list of groundwater management actions that local agencies are likely to consider under SGMA, as well as the data or metrics that agencies may use to compare and prioritize these management actions, and the key uncertainties that may affect agencies' ability to compare and prioritize these actions.
2. Identify existing and potential approaches, data platforms, analytic tools and other technologies to support and communicate decision-making (i.e., decisions to prioritize, implement, monitor, and communicate management actions) at the local level.
3. Identify key areas of uncertainty that hinder groundwater management decisions under SGMA and possible ways to move forward under uncertainty.

Possible Workshop Outputs:

1. A report or white paper mapping common data-related needs for groundwater management decisions to existing tools and technologies. The paper will also identify potential areas for data and/or tool development and potential entities to develop them.
2. One or more academic publications that will combine the findings from all four groundwater data workshops, as well as in the groundwater data survey.

Meeting Details:

When: June 3, 2016

Where: Y2E2 Room 299, Bechtel Conference Room, 473 Via Ortega, Stanford CA 94305

Hotel: Stanford Guest House, 2575 Sand Hill Road, Menlo Park, CA 94025

Meeting Contact: Tara Moran, 650-721-2421, tamoran@stanford.edu

Logistics Contact: Athena Serapio, 650-724-7609, athena3@stanford.edu

¹ In this workshop series, we use the term tool to capture a breadth of processes, methods or models designed for the purpose of prioritizing, measuring, consolidating, visualizing, and/or disseminating data or information for decision-making purposes. This term may include decision frameworks, visualization software, data integration platforms, decision support tools, databases, models, or other technologies.

AGENDA

8:00am **Breakfast**

8:30am **Welcome & Meeting Overview, Introductions (20 mins)**

Tara Moran, Program Lead, Sustainable Groundwater, Water in the West

Marci DuPraw, Managing Senior Facilitator and Mediator, California State University, Sacramento

8:50am **Session 1: Basin Management Decisions under SGMA (100 mins)**

Objective: To jointly develop a list of local management actions and the factors affecting them.

Presenter and Facilitator: Benjamin Bryant, Postdoctoral Fellow, Water in the West (15 mins)

- Example Basin One: Mark Larsen, Kaweah Delta Water Conservation District (15mins)
- Example Basin Two: Brian Lockwood, Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency (15 mins)

Plenary Discussion (45 mins)

10:30am **Break (20 mins)**

10:50am **Session 2: Case Studies with DWR: Tools to support decision-making under SGMA (100 mins)**

Objective: To learn about and provide feedback on tools being developed by DWR.

Moderator: Marci DuPraw, Managing Senior Facilitator, California State University, Sacramento

Dan McManus and Steven Springhorn, California Department of Water Resources

- Case Study One: Existing tool(s) (45 mins) – Groundwater Information Center
- Case Study Two: Future tool(s) (45 mins) – Guiding principles for tool development

12:30pm **Lunch (50 mins)**

1:20pm **Session 3: Process and Tool Visioning: Tools to support decision-making under SGMA**

Session 3a: Presentations and Sharing (75 mins)

Objective: To learn about new and existing tools used for groundwater management decisions.

Moderator: Marci DuPraw, Managing Senior Facilitator, California State University, Sacramento

Presentations:

- Example One: Adam Hutchinson, Orange County Water District (15 mins)
- Example Two: David Purkey, Stockholm Environment Institute and Tim O'Halloran, Yolo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (20 mins)
- Example Three: Daniel Mountjoy, Sustainable Conservation (10 mins)

Sharing:

- Time to share experience on decision-making processes and tools in small groups (30 mins)

2:45pm **Break (15 mins)**

3:00pm **Session 3b: Plenary Discussion (60 mins)**

Objective: To identify local agency decision-making needs and tools to meet them.

Moderator: Amanda Cravens, Research Social Scientist, USGS, Fort Collins Science Center

Discussion questions:

- What would help you make decisions or prioritize management actions?
- Are there processes or tools that would that would be helpful? What would they look like?
- What opportunities do you see to support better decision-making under SGMA?

4:00pm **Session 4: Opportunities, Meeting Synthesis, Next Steps, Feedback**

Facilitated by: Janet Martinez, Director, Gould Center for Conflict Resolution

- How do we collectively ensure successful implementation of SGMA?

4:30pm **Adjourn** for a light reception