

# Land Use Planning and SGMA

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# SGMA

- ▶ Sustainable Management of Groundwater
- ▶ Avoiding Significant and Unreasonable Impacts
  - ▶ Groundwater levels, storage, water quality, subsidence, salinity intrusion and surface water
- ▶ Local Agency management and authorities
- ▶ Defined roles for DWR (support) and SWRCB (enforcement)
- ▶ Stakeholder involvement
- ▶ GSP structure, objectives, milestones
- ▶ Information Exchange and Coordination with Planning Agencies

# Forecasted Impacts on Land Use

- ▶ Annual average overdraft in San Joaquin Valley = 1.5 to 2.0 million AF
- ▶ Forecasted reduction in irrigated ag land = 500,000 +/- acres
- ▶ Conversion to habitat? Solar? Recharge basins?
- ▶ Impact on Communities supported by ag economy = ????
- ▶ Increase in conveyance & storage facilities

# Policy Recommendations - ACWA

## ▶ Water Availability Determinations

- ▶ Land use agencies should be required to consider protection of prime groundwater recharge areas and consult groundwater management agencies regarding any significant groundwater-dependent development, including new permanent crop plantings, in order to obtain “will serve” letters and Water Availability Determinations.

## ▶ GMP Consistency Determinations

- ▶ Extend the requirement to consider UWMPs to include GMPs.
- ▶ GSAs should be authorized to issue “**GMP Consistency Determinations**” for all new proposed industrial, residential or agricultural development (including introduction of permanent crops) that may have a significant effect on groundwater resources
  - ▶ Where new proposed groundwater use is determined to be inconsistent with the GMP and to impede attainment of sustainable groundwater management, it should be presumed to have a “significant adverse impact on the environment” under CEQA and either be mitigated or be subject to a Statement of Overriding Consideration by the lead agency.

## LEGISLATIVE INTENT

### 65352.5. REQUIREMENT TO PROVIDE WATER-RELATED DOCUMENTS TO GENERAL PLAN AGENCY

- (a) The Legislature finds and declares that it is vital that there be **close coordination and consultation between California's water supply or management agencies and California's land use approval agencies** to ensure that proper water supply and management planning occurs to accommodate projects that will result in increased demands on water supplies or impact water resource management.
- (b) It is, therefore, the intent of the Legislature to **provide a standardized process** for determining the adequacy of existing and planned future water supplies to meet existing and planned future demands on these water supplies and the impact of land use decisions on the management of California's water supply resources.
- (GC 65352.5)*

## INFORMATION EXCHANGE

Before the adoption or any substantial amendment of a city's or county's general plan, the planning agency shall review and consider a groundwater sustainability plan. (*GC 65350.5*)

Planning agency shall refer the proposed action to any special district that may be significantly affected by the proposed action, as determined by the planning agency; and to any groundwater sustainability agency that has adopted a groundwater sustainability plan (*GC 65252*)

## COORDINATION

A groundwater sustainability agency shall provide the planning agency with the following information, as is appropriate and relevant:

(1) The current version of its groundwater sustainability plan or alternative

(2) If the groundwater sustainability agency manages groundwater pursuant to a court order, judgment, decree, or agreement among affected water rights holders, or if the State Water Resources Control Board has adopted an interim plan pursuant to Chapter 11 (commencing with Section 10735) of Part 2.74 of Division 6 of the Water Code, the groundwater sustainability agency shall provide the planning agency with maps of recharge basins and percolation ponds, extraction limitations, and other relevant information, or the court order, judgment, or decree.

(3) A report on the anticipated effect of proposed action to adopt or substantially amend a general plan on implementation of a groundwater sustainability plan (GC 65352.5(d))

# GSP Requirements

A groundwater sustainability plan shall take into account the most recent planning assumptions stated in local general plans of jurisdictions overlying the basin. (*WC 10726.9*)



# GSP Regulations

A plain language description of the land use elements or topic categories of applicable general plans that includes the following:

- (1) A summary of general plans and other land use plans governing the basin.
- (2) A general description of how implementation of existing land use plans may change water demands within the basin or affect the ability of the Agency to achieve sustainable groundwater management over the planning and implementation horizon, and how the Plan addresses those potential effects.
- (3) A general description of how implementation of the Plan may affect the water supply assumptions of relevant land use plans over the planning and implementation horizon.
- (4) A summary of the process for permitting new or replacement wells in the basin, including adopted standards in local well ordinances, zoning codes, and policies contained in adopted land use plans.
- (5) To the extent known, the Agency may include information regarding the implementation of land use plans outside the basin that could affect the ability of the Agency to achieve sustainable groundwater management. GSP Regs 354.8(f)