



## Water and Resource Conservation

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# Butte County Groundwater Pumpers Advisory Committee

## Meeting Agenda

Meeting Date: March 19, 2018

Time: 8:30AM

Place: Chico State University Farm, 311 Nicholas C. Shouten Lane, Room A009 & 0010, Chico, CA

### Agenda Items

1. Welcome – Chair Heringer
2. Roll Call – Chair Heringer
3. Election of Chair and Vice Chair
4. \*Review and approval of the January 16, 2018 GPAC minutes
5. Overview and discussion of the agenda (Paul Gosselin, Water and Resource Conservation)
6. Update on Statewide SGMA Issues (Debbie Spangler, DWR)
7. Update on the Groundwater Sustainability Grant (Christina Buck, Water and Resource Conservation)
8. Status and schedule of facilitated governance discussions (Paul Gosselin, Water and Resource Conservation)

9. \*Presentation and possible recommendation on governance (Paul Gosselin, Water and Resource Conservation)
10. \*Presentation and possible recommendation on basin boundary modifications (Christina Buck, Water and Resource Conservation)
11. \*Discussion and possible recommendation regarding guiding principles (Paul Gosselin, Water and Resource Conservation)
12. Update of other SGMA issues – Staff & GPAC
13. GPAC members wishing to address items not listed on the agenda. (The GPAC is prohibited by state law from taking action on any item presented if it is not listed on the agenda).
14. Public members wishing to address the Commission on items not listed on the agenda. (The GPAC is prohibited by State law from taking action on any item presented if it is not listed on the agenda. Comments will be limited to five minutes per person)
15. Next meeting – May 21, 2018, 8:30AM, CSU Chico Farm.
16. Adjournment

\*Materials attached



**Butte County  
Groundwater Pumpers Advisory Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
January 16, 2018**

Time: 8:30AM

Place: Chico State University Farm, 311 Nicholas C. Shouten Lane, Room A009 & 0010, Chico, CA

Agenda Items

1. Welcome – Chair Heringer
2. Roll Call  
**Members Present: Heringer, Edgar, Rice, Schooling, Cole, Sohnrey, Strachan**
3. Review and approval of the November 30, 2017 GPAC minutes  
**Motion by Rice, seconded by Strachan. Passed 7-0**
4. Overview and discussion of the agenda  
**Paul Gosselin gave an overview of the agenda**
5. Update on the private well outreach strategy  
**Paul Gosselin and Susan Strachan described the approach to create a mailing list of parcels not served by a water purveyor. The department is developing a mailing list for each subbasin.**
6. Update on Statewide SGMA Issues  
**Debbie Spangler, DWR, gave an overview of statewide SGMA implementation issues.**
7. Overview of the Groundwater Sustainability Grant Application  
**Christina Buck gave a presentation on the tasks in the GSP grant.**

8. Update on GSA Formation Process  
**Paul Gosselin described the processes in the four subbasins.**
9. Update of other SGMA issues  
**None.**
10. GPAC members wishing to address items not listed on the agenda. (The GPAC is prohibited by state law from taking action on any item presented if it is not listed on the agenda).
11. Public members wishing to address the Commission on items not listed on the agenda. (The GPAC is prohibited by State law from taking action on any item presented if it is not listed on the agenda. Comments will be limited to five minutes per person)
12. Next meeting – March 19, 2018, 8:30AM, CSU Chico Farm.
13. Adjournment



# SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT ACT GOVERNANCE STATUS

March 19, 2018



## SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT ACT

### Today's Status Update

- **Groundwater Sustainability Plans**
  - **January 30, 2022 Deadline**
  - **Work will begin soon**
  
- **Governance Structures**
  - **Summer 2018**



## SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT ACT

### Overarching Concepts

- **Local Management**
  - **"Groundwater Sustainability Agencies" (2017)**
- **Groundwater Sustainability Plans (2022)**
  - **Technical Data**
  - **"Sustainability Goals"**
  - **Achieve Sustainability in 20 years**
- **State Technical Support and Regulatory Standards**
- **State Oversight/Intervention**

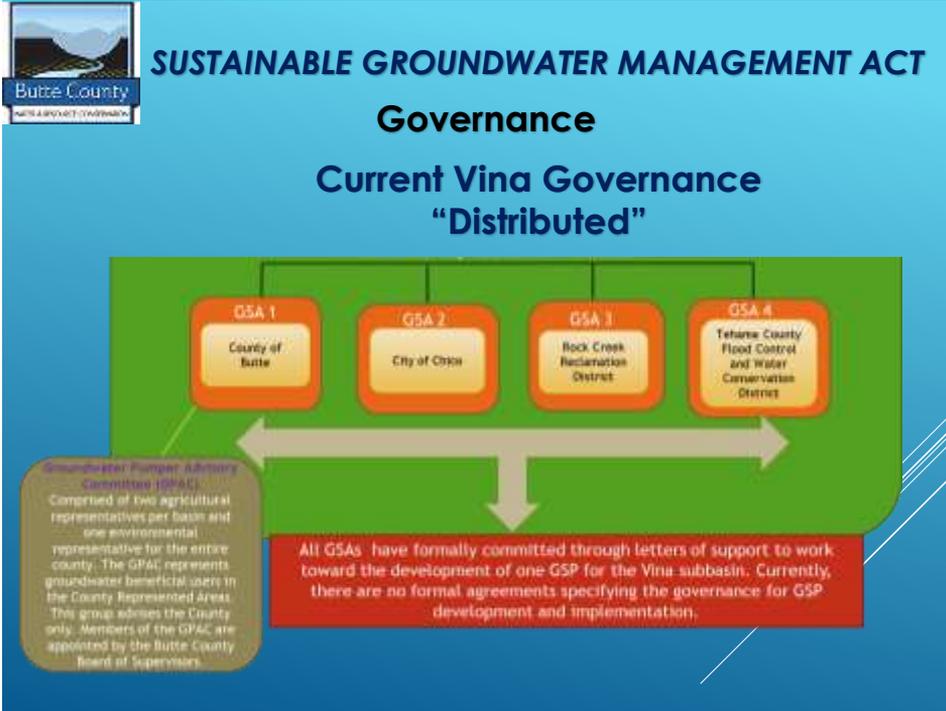


## SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT ACT

### State Role – "Carrot and Stick"









**SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT ACT**  
**Governance Status**  
**Management Areas**

- Could be applied to any governance model
- Similar to Sub-inventory units (Basin Management Objective Program)
- Addresses local water management decision-making
- “Management Area” an area within a subbasin:
  - **Different minimum thresholds**
  - **Measurable objectives**
  - **Monitoring**
  - **Projects and management actions**
- Demonstrate it can be managed without causing undesirable results outside the Area



## SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT ACT

### Governance

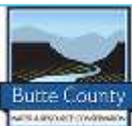
#### Concept 1: GSAs Retain Status

##### Overview

- Combination of Distributed and Centralized
- GSAs retain GSA status
- Coordination through Joint Powers Agreement
- GSAs assume some SGMA responsibilities
- Coordinating agency assumes remaining responsibilities

##### Considerations

- Offers flexibility and retention of some SGMA authority
- Will require more coordination
- Will require more responsibility and cost for individual GSAs
- May not allow for stakeholders to have a seat on the governing board



## SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT ACT

### Governance

#### Concept 2: Centralized GSA





## SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT ACT

### Governance

#### Concept 2: Centralized GSA

#### Overview

- Joint Powers Agency (Joint Powers Act)
- Covers entire basin
- Assumes all SGMA authorities and responsibilities
- Agencies preserve all existing authorities

#### Considerations

- Efficient and more cost effective
- Consistent regulatory framework across the basin
- SGMA authority delegated to JPA
- Allows for stakeholders to have a seat on the governing board



## SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT ACT

### Governance

#### What's Next

#### Governance Structures – Summer 2018

- Public process
- GSA Managers review
- Legal Subcommittee Review
- Board/Council approval in Summer 2018



## **SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT ACT**

### **Governance Discussion**

Are there issues/considerations with:

1. Creating a new Joint Powers Agency?
2. Having stakeholder seats on the JPA governing board?
3. Scaled Voting (e.g., majority for routine items, supermajority for major items)



## **SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT ACT**

# **Thank You**



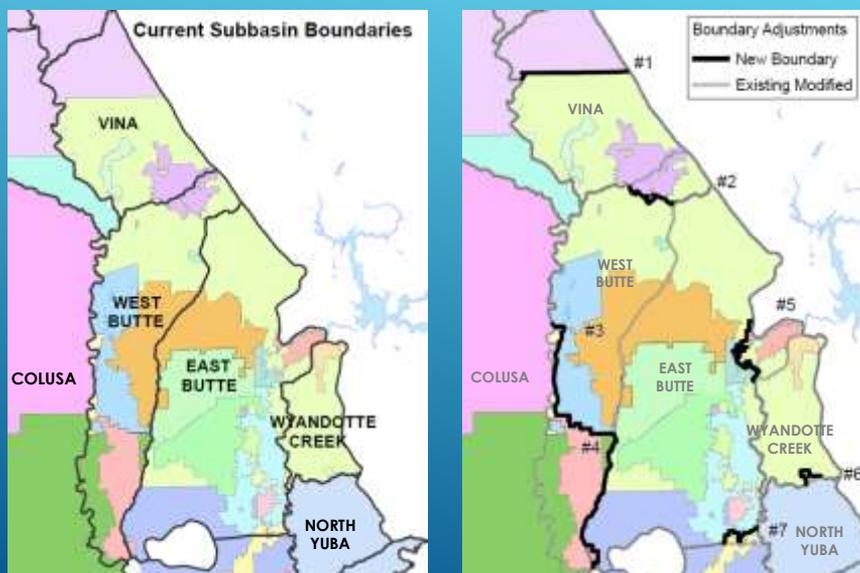
## SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT ACT

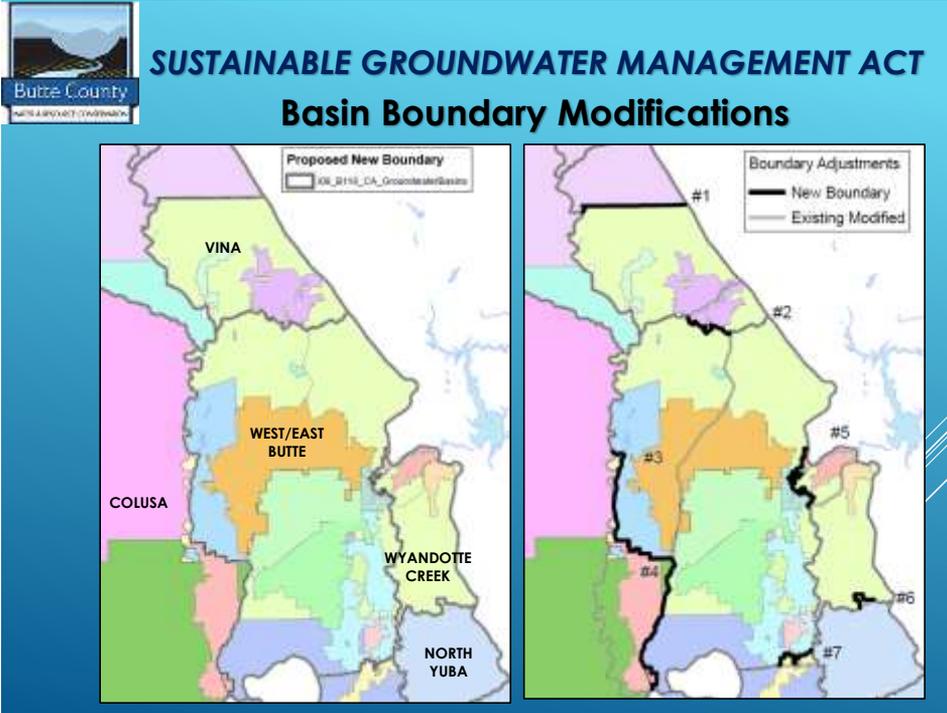
# Basin Boundary Modification Concepts



## SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT ACT

### Basin Boundary Modifications





**Butte County**  
SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT ACT

# Discussion



# SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT ACT

## Extra Slides



# SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT ACT

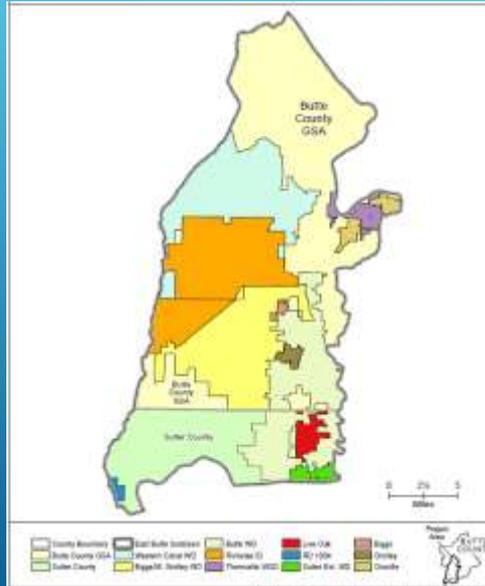
## Undesirable Results



- Lowering of GW Levels
- Reduction of GW Storage
- Seawater Intrusion
- Water Quality Degradation
- Land Subsidence
- Depletion of Interconnected Streams



## SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT ACT Governance and Basin Modification Status



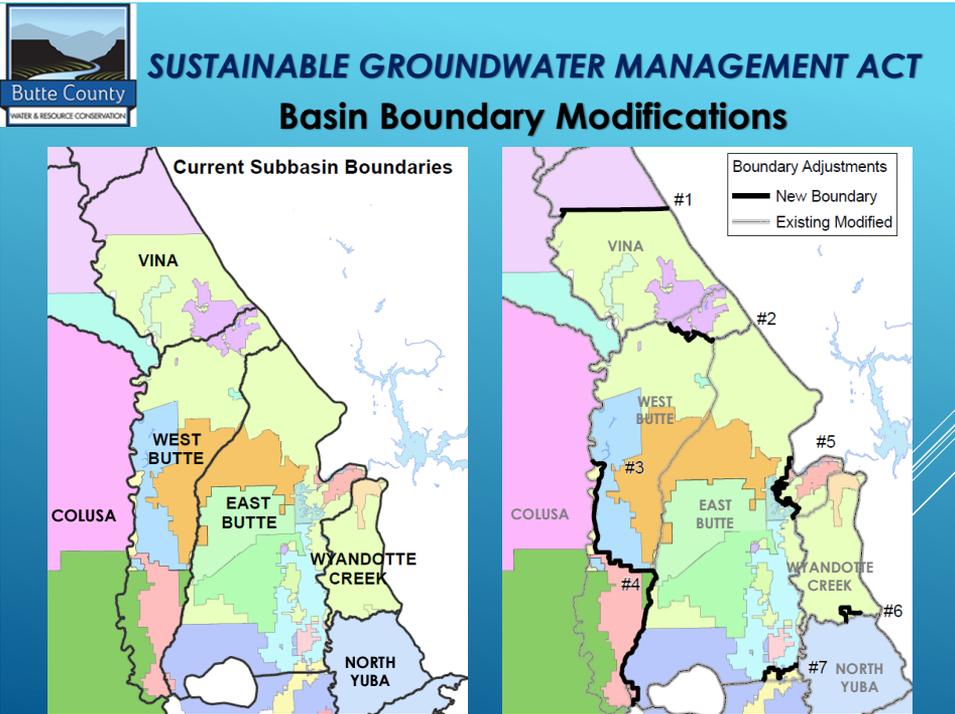
## SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT ACT Governance and Basin Modification Status

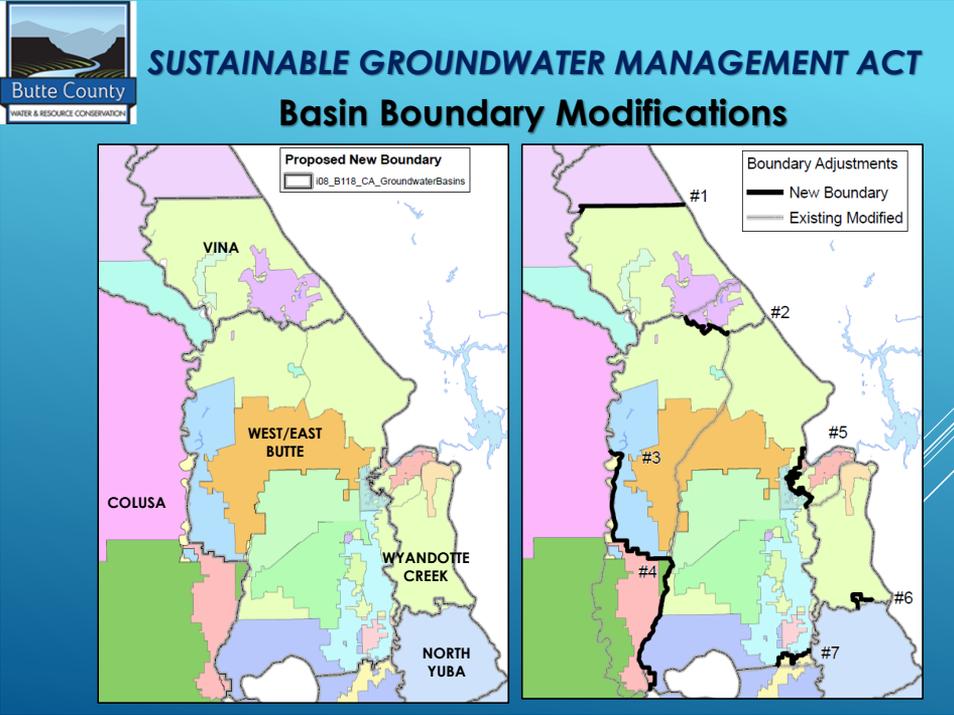




# SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT ACT

## Basin Boundary Modification Concepts





**Butte County**  
WATER & RESOURCE CONSERVATION

### SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT ACT

# Discussion

## Draft Guiding Principles

- GSAs intend to work together in mutual cooperation to develop and implement a GSP for the Vina subbasin in compliance with SGMA;
- GSAs affirm a commitment to establishing an equitable representation of all GSAs;
- Agricultural groundwater pumpers should have representative on the governing board and consideration should be given to other groundwater users such as a domestic well users.
- GSAs are mutually responsible for the sustainability of the basin, however, landowners in one area will not be responsible to remedy the problems that occurring in other areas;
- As is consistent with Water Code section 10720.5(b), SGMA does not determine or alter surface water rights or groundwater rights under common law or any provision of law that determines or grants surface water rights.
- All groundwater users in the Vina subbasin have an equal stake for sustainability in the basin.
- The intent of governance in the Vina subbasin is to seek a cost effective, practicable approach to SGMA implementation that takes advantage of economies of scale.
- Neither a GSA nor a JPA will have the authority to limit or interfere with the respective GSA rights and authorities over their own internal matters, including, but not limited to, a GSA's legal rights to surface water supplies and assets, groundwater supplies and assets, facilities, operations, water management and water supply matters.
- By entering into a JPA, GSAs make no commitments to share or otherwise contribute their water supply assets as part of the development or implementation of a GSP.
- The JPA will not have authority to modify or limit a GSAs' police powers, land use authorities, or any other authority.
- Each GSA shall be individually responsible for its own covenants, obligations, and liabilities.
- No GSA shall be under the control of or shall be deemed to control any other GSA.
- No GSA shall not be precluded from independently pursuing any of the activities contemplated in the JPA.
- No GSA shall be the agent or have the right or power to bind any other GSA.

June 9, 2017

TO: Groundwater Pumpers Advisory Committee

FM: Susan Strachan, Environmental Representative

RE: Proposed revisions to guiding principles

Following for consideration by the GPAC are some suggestions for changes to the draft guiding principles that have been presented at the last few GPAC meetings. The changes are tracked and a short rationale is provided for each proposed change. Following the list of proposed changes is the original language from the May 2, 2016 document titled Assessment of Stakeholder Perspectives: Options for Implementing the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act in Butte County. Thank you for your consideration of these changes.

### Guiding Principles for SGMA Governance

- Maximize value of familiar and effective structures and relationships
  - Rationale: original language from stakeholder assessment report
- Acknowledge all key~~Address~~ interests of eligible local agencies- to promote opportunities for integration, efficiency, and cost-effectiveness
  - Rationale: “address” indicates identifying, analyzing, and implementing actions concerning “interests”. Remainder of language from stakeholder assessment report.
- Respect legally recognized rights of all stakeholders.
  - Rationale: water issues raise legal rights of many stakeholders.
- Anticipate GSP requirements
- Make use of basin boundary adjustments Utilize SGMA’s tools that address geographic variation when supported by science and stakeholders.
  - Rationale: SGMA provides management areas and basin boundary adjustments as tools and both should be utilized when appropriate.
- Comply with SGMA and regulations
- Identify opportunities to~~Ensure public participation and~~ address interest of non-GSA stakeholders.
  - Rationale: “identify opportunities” is not the appropriate action.
- Distribute costs equitably and avoid fees if possible.
- Respect mutual interests in maintaining independent decision making.
- Provide flexibility to adapt to future circumstances
  - Rationale: original language from stakeholder assessment report.
- Use science-based information/research to monitor and understand groundwater.
  - Rationale: Butte County monitoring program is critical to implement SGMA.
- Plan for a sustainable future by employing conservation efforts and innovative solutions.
  - Rationale: conservation can address shortages and sustain the environment; innovation (e.g. hybrid surface-groundwater for orchards) will be necessary to address our challenges.

Excerpt beginning page 28

## PRELIMINARY CRITERIA FOR GSA FORMATION

The following are preliminary criteria identified through the assessment interviews that could inform discussions and decision-making about a GSA structure involving one or more GSAs.

1. Maximize the value of familiar and effective regional structures and relationships
2. Acknowledge all key interests of eligible local agencies related to SGMA implementation to promote opportunities for integration, efficiency, and cost-effectiveness
3. Respect legally recognized rights, including water rights, and interests in protecting those rights
4. Anticipate and integrate GSP requirements into decision making
5. Make use of basin boundary adjustments and address service area overlaps
6. Comply with SGMA and regulations
7. Provide flexibility to adapt to future circumstances
8. Identify opportunities to address interests of non-GSA stakeholders
9. Ensure that any costs are distributed equitably and avoid fees if at all possible
10. Respect mutual interests in maintaining independent decision making that reflects expertise and experience, both agricultural and urban, to the greatest extent possible.