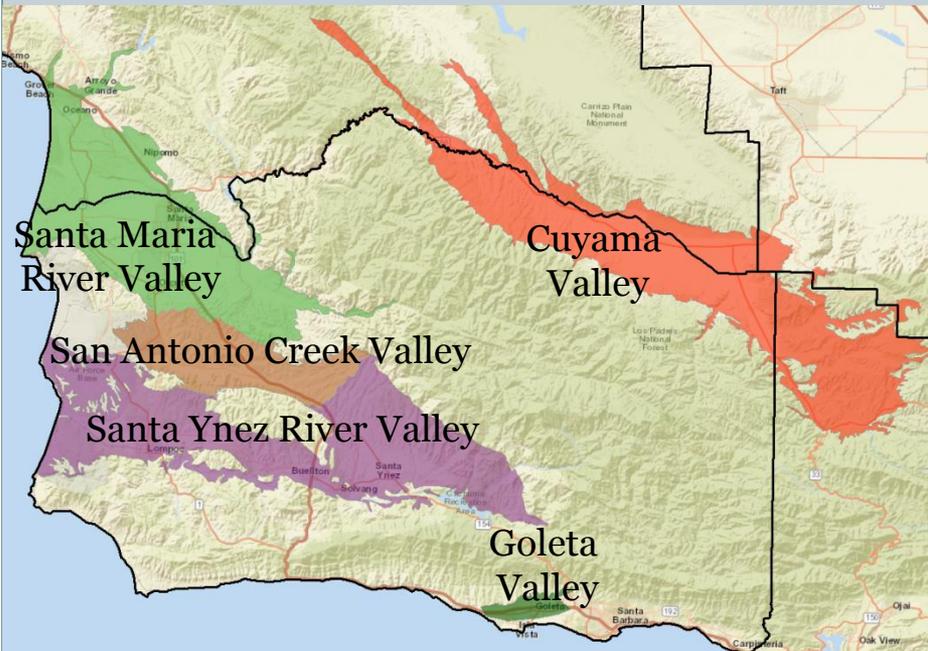


# Groundwater Sustainability Agency Formation Update

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**SANTA BARBARA  
COUNTY  
WATER AGENCY  
BOARD OF  
DIRECTORS  
DECEMBER 6, 2016**

# What is Sustainable Management?

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- Management of groundwater to avoid undesirable results



Chronic lowering of groundwater levels indicating a significant and unreasonable depletion of supply



Significant and unreasonable reduction of groundwater storage



Significant and unreasonable seawater intrusion



Significant and unreasonable degraded water quality



Significant and unreasonable land subsidence

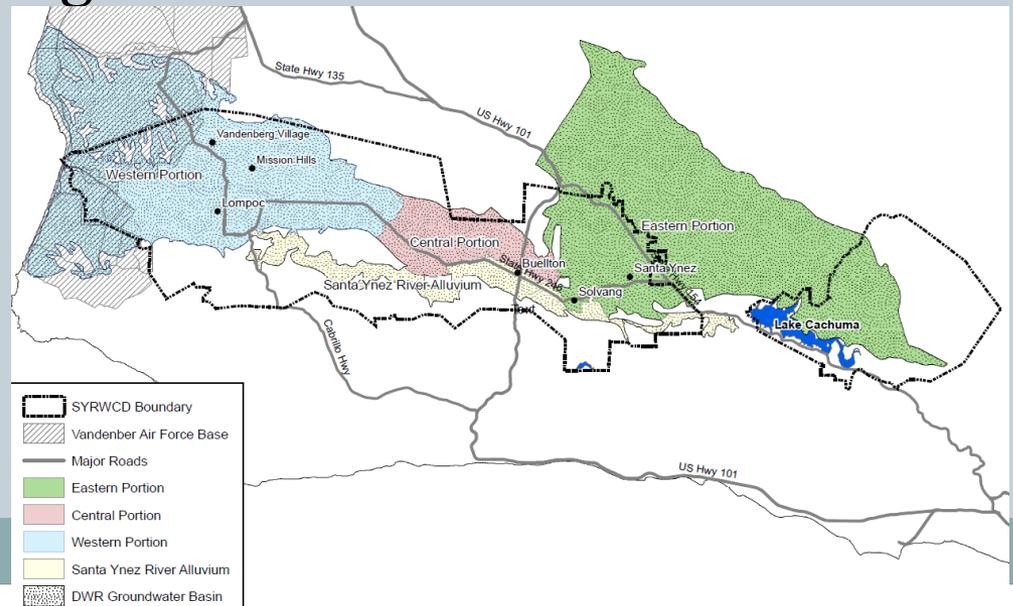


Depletions of interconnected surface water that have significant and unreasonable adverse impacts on beneficial uses of the surface water

# Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin

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- Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District (SYRWCD) acting as GSA lead
- Three sub-basins; pursuing three GSAs with coordination agreement
- Western and Central Management Areas have held public meetings and negotiated agreements for GSA formation
- Eastern Management Area in progress.



# Santa Ynez Valley Groundwater Basin Western and Central Management Areas

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- Memoranda of Agreement
- Less than 1-percent of area outside of the boundaries of other agencies to be covered by Water Agency
- Water Agency as a non-voting member: no funding or liability
- Western: SYRWCD, City of Lompoc, MHCSD, VVCSD
- Central: SYRWCD, City of Buellton
- Advisory Committees
- Staff will return with recommendations for board member appointments

# Cuyama Valley Groundwater Basin

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- Water Agency working on a JPA to form the GSA with:
  - Counties of San Luis Obispo, Ventura and Kern
  - Cuyama Community Services District
  - Cuyama Basin Water District (in process of forming, expected in March)
- Proposed equally-weighted voting structure, still under discussion
- Held a community meeting and a formal public meeting
- Advisory Committee in development



# San Antonio Creek Valley Groundwater Basin

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- Water Agency coordinating with Cachuma RCD to form a GSA via a JPA:
  - Cachuma RCD asked by landowners to represent agricultural interests on the GSA
  - Los Alamos CSD and Vandenberg AFB have elected to serve in advisory capacity
- Regular meetings since April, public meeting in September
- Voting structure focus of current discussions
- Seeking Board direction on voting options

# San Antonio Groundwater Basin

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- **GSA Board Member voting options**
  - a) 1 Water Agency; 7 CRCDD: Vines (2), Row Crops (2), Orchards (1), Cattle (1), Transitional land use (1)
  - b) 1 Water Agency; 1 CRCDD
  - c) Water Agency opt out, allow CRCDD to file as sole GSA
  - d) Water Agency file as sole GSA, pending CRCDD decision
  - e) Continue negotiations with specific guidance, such as:
    - ✦ Water Agency not in minority
    - ✦ Joint appointments by both Boards
    - ✦ Equally weighted voting, not necessarily 1:1

# Adjudicated Basin Fringes

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- **Santa Maria River Valley Groundwater Basin**
  - Small areas outside the adjudicated basin boundary
  - Water Agency coordinating with San Luis Obispo County on exploring GSA options
  - Water agency options:
    - a) Form GSA, explore options with DWR/SWRCB
    - b) Opt out, leaving water users to SWRCB enforcement
- **Goleta Valley Groundwater Basin**
  - Non-adjudicated portions entirely within Goleta Water District boundaries – no planned Water Agency role
  - GWD Board to consider GSA formation December 13

# After GSA Formation

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- GSA responsible for developing and implementing Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) by 2020/2022
  - Identify undesirable results, critical thresholds, measurable objectives, and management actions
  - Must include technical information on basin
  - Must receive State approval (DWR)
- Funding GSAs (grants, assessments, fees)
- If GSA is not formed or GSP not approved:
  - Enforcement by State Water Resources Control Board
  - Reporting requirements, fees, “interim plan”
  - Loss of local control

# Recommendations

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- Receive and file a report on activities and progress to date related the formation of Sustainable Groundwater Agencies;
- Approve the resolution and MOA for the Western Management Area in the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin;
- Approve the resolution and MOA for the Central Management Area in the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin;
- Direct staff to proceed with formation of a GSA in the San Antonio Creek Groundwater Basin, with 1:1 voting membership (option B); and
- Direct staff to proceed with GSA formation in the non-adjudicated fringe portion of the Santa Maria Valley Groundwater Basin (option A).