

# Sustainable Groundwater Management Act & Groundwater Sustainability Agencies

1

**SANTA BARBARA COUNTY  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
JULY 12, 2016**

# Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA)

2

- Signed into law September, 2014
- Applies to medium and high priority basins defined by DWR:
  - Cuyama Valley Groundwater Basin
  - San Antonio Creek Groundwater Basin
  - Santa Ynez River Groundwater Basin
- County is presumptive party of responsibility for compliance
- SGMA requires formation of Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSA)
- Previous SGMA BOS items:
  - Nov. 17, 2015: SGMA Overview & Basin Boundary Rev.
  - April 5, 2016: GSA Formation Grant & Consultant Contract

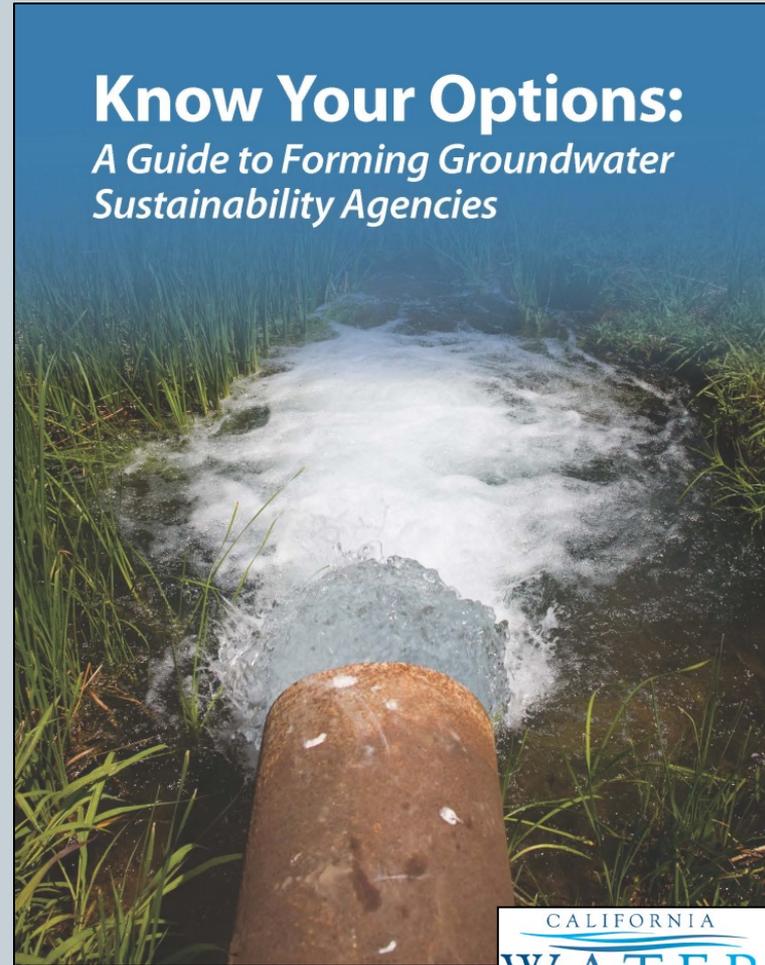
# Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSA)

3

- Local agency, or combination of agencies, that has water supply, water management, or land use authority within the basin
- **Deadline: June 30, 2017**
- Responsible for developing and implementing Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) for the basin
- Funding: Prop 1 Grant

## Know Your Options:

*A Guide to Forming Groundwater Sustainability Agencies*



# Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSA)

4

- **If combination of local agencies:**
  - Joint Powers Authority (JPA)
  - Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)
  - Other legal instrument
- **Must solicit and consider the input of all beneficial interests and users of groundwater within the basin**
- **New adjudication does not eliminate requirement to form a GSA by statutory deadline**
- **Submit GSA Formation notice to DWR**

# What Comes Next?

5

- **GSA responsible for developing and implementing Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP)**
  - GSP must include technical information on basin
  - Must receive State approval (DWR)
  - Consistent with County General Plan

**Step one**  
Form  
Groundwater  
Sustainability  
Agency  
June 30, 2017

**Step two**  
Develop  
Groundwater  
Sustainability  
Plan  
January 31, 2022

**Step three**  
Achieve  
Sustainability  
20 years after  
adoption of  
plan\*

- **Non-Compliance:**  
Enforcement agent is SWRCB  
Basin becomes probationary  
State intervention

# Cuyama Valley Groundwater Basin

6

- **Water Agency coordinating with Basin interests:**
  - California Water District Formation
  - Counties of San Luis Obispo, Ventura and Kern
  - Cuyama Community Services District
  - April 18, 2016 meeting; next meeting in September
- **Technical study completed in 2014**
  - Provides basis for Groundwater Sustainability Plan
- **Basin listed as “critically overdrafted” by DWR**
- **At least one public GSA workshop**



# San Antonio Groundwater Basin

7

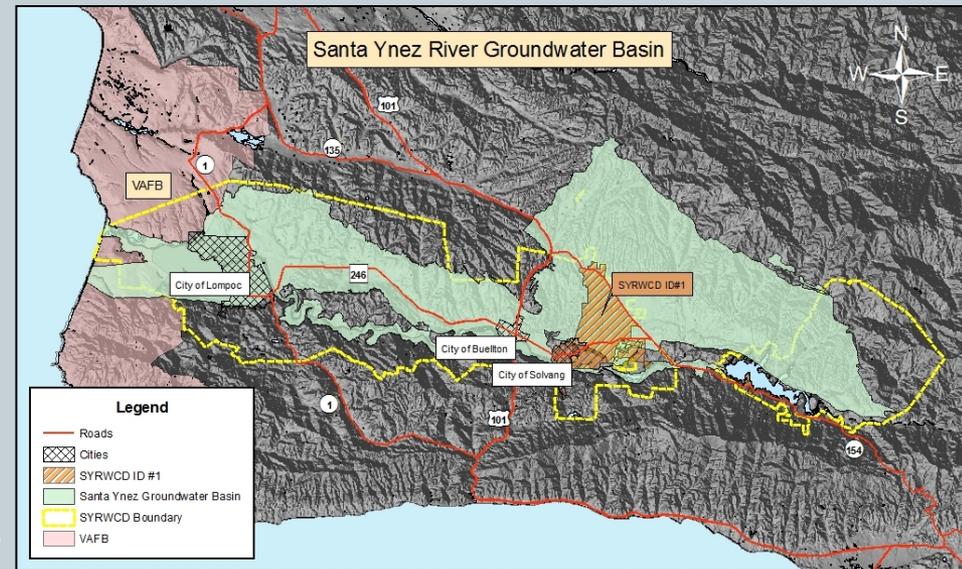
- **Technical study underway (yearly updates to BOS)**
  - Will provide basis for GSP
- **Water Agency coordinating with Basin interests:**
  - Cachuma RCD
  - Los Alamos CSD
  - Vandenberg AFB
  - Monthly meetings since April
- **Cooperative MOU**
- **Likely JPA**
- **At least one public GSA workshop**



# Santa Ynez Valley Groundwater Basin

8

- Consists of multiple sub-basins
- Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District (SYRWCD) GSA lead
- SYRWCD with Cities, ID#1, MHCSA, VVCSD and Water Agency
- Three GSAs with coordination agreement
- Some County areas outside of District
- Signed Cooperative MOU
- Outreach to Chumash Tribe



# Other Basins

9

- **SGMA / GSA formation not required for basins determined to be Low or Very Low priority by DWR**
- **Some local agencies may choose to implement voluntarily**
- **Water Agency may be requested to participate in voluntary GSAs**



# Recommendations and Next Steps

10

## Recommendations:

- Receive and file presentation on Groundwater Sustainability Agency Formation in the County;
- Authorize Water Agency to participate in GSA formation in the Cuyama, San Antonio, and Santa Ynez Basins;
- Direct staff to return to the Board by June 30, 2017 for consideration of formation instruments to create GSAs in the Cuyama, San Antonio and Santa Ynez Basins.

## Next Step:

- Actively pursue funding opportunities for GSP development and implementation; uncertain but likely from DWR in future