

Formation of a Groundwater Sustainability Agency

Groundwater Stakeholder Meeting

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New Local Groundwater Governance



Governor Brown signs historic groundwater legislation. Photo Credit: Justin Short, Office of the Governor.

Required under the
Sustainable Groundwater
Management Act of 2014

Requires formation of a
Groundwater Sustainability Agency (or Agencies)
to develop and implement a
Groundwater Sustainability Plan and
achieve basin sustainability.

Groundwater Sustainability Agency(GSAs)

What is the authority? (some examples)

While GSAs have the authority to regulate, limit, or suspend groundwater production and assess fees.....

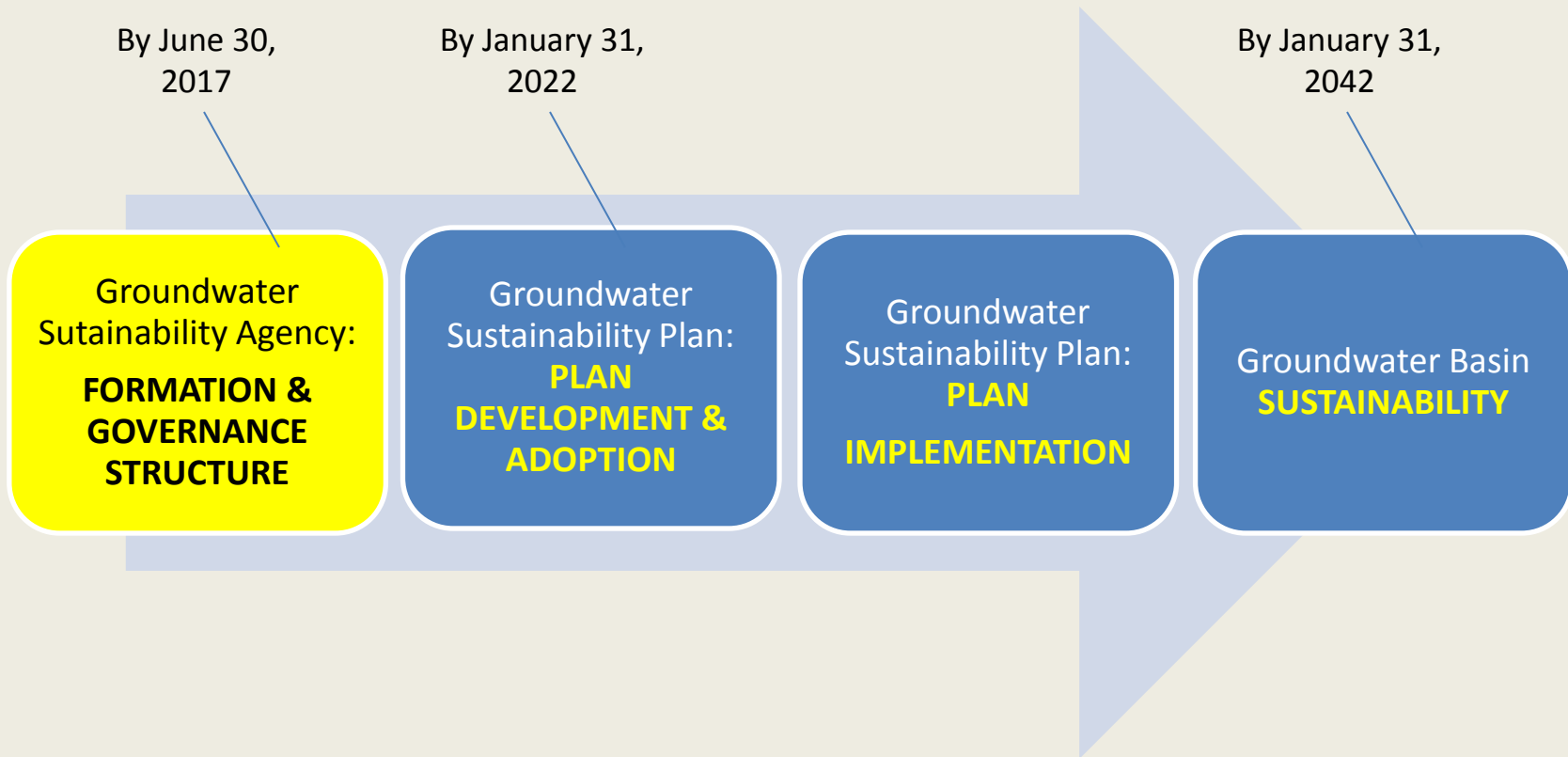


It does NOT alter
surface water and
groundwater rights
under common law.

Initial Steps to Forming a GSA

- 1 Local agencies to decide if and how to participate
- 2 Educate local agency officials (and interested parties) on the Act
- 3 Identify basin boundary that the GSA will operate in and request a revision to the state, if needed.
- 4 Identify interested parties and engage/inform them about public participation opportunities
- 5 Explore options for single or joint governance amongst local agencies

Key Steps on the Road to Sustainability

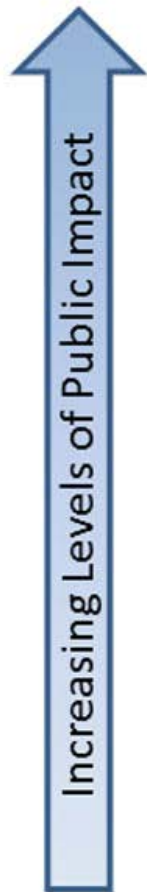


The state legislation lays out a process and timeline for local authorities to achieve sustainable management of groundwater basins.

Public participation goals

Spectrum of public participation (IAP2)

Goals of participation in landscape planning



Empower	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Referendum, citizens involved in the basic democratic process
Collaborate	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Decisions made with citizens and stakeholders (for selected projects)
Involve	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Citizens contribute their opinions in the preparation of decisions
Consult	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Information exchange between citizens and politicians, administration / farmer
Inform	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• One way distribution of information

Next Step in Process

Determining Governance Structure

Involve

or

Collaborate

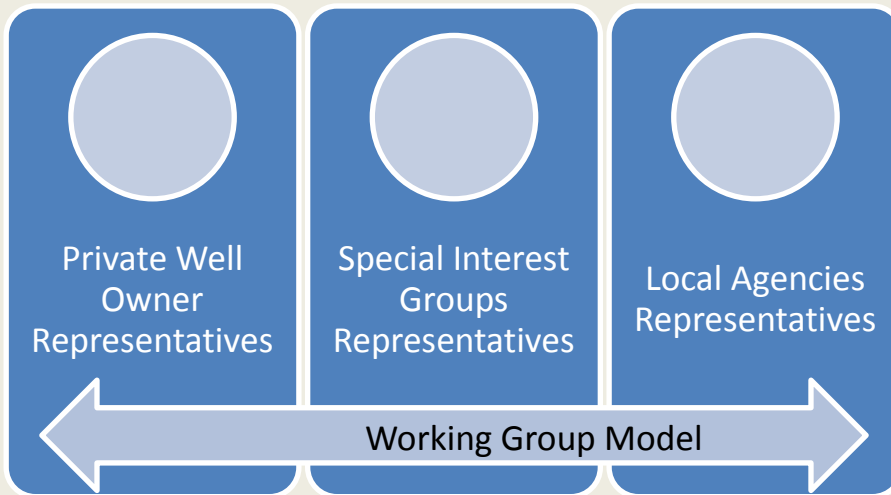
Lead Agency (decision group, drafts recommendation)

Citizen Advisory Group (no agency representation, non-binding recommendations)

Stakeholder Group (decision group, drafts recommendation, includes agencies as stakeholders)

Lead Agency (Funding and facilitation of Stakeholder Group)

Input on Community Engagement with Formation of the GSA



Feedback on Structure of Next Steps:

- Involve/Collaborative
- Non-Facilitated/Facilitated
- Advisory Committee/Working Group

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/LGC2QNK>

