

## **Sustainable Groundwater Management Act Timeline**

### **Sept, 16, 2014: Groundwater management legislation becomes law**

Gov. Brown signs Senate Bill 1168, Assembly Bill 1739, and Senate Bill 1319, which made up the groundwater management legislation package.

### **Jan. 1, 2015: Legislation goes into effect**

The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act becomes effective.

### **Jan. 31, 2015: DWR must establish initial groundwater basin priority**

California Department of Water Resources (DWR) establishes the initial priority – high, medium, low or very low – for each groundwater basin in the state by the end of January 2015 (Water Code § 10722.4).

### **Jan. 1, 2016: DWR must set emergency regulations for basin boundary revisions**

DWR adopts emergency regulations for groundwater basin boundary revisions by Jan. 1, 2016. The regulations must include the methodology and criteria used to evaluate proposed boundary revisions, including the establishment of new subbasins (Water Code § 10722.2).

### **June 1, 2016: DWR must establish emergency regulations for evaluating plans**

DWR adopts emergency regulations for evaluating Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs), their implementation and coordination agreements among local agencies for groundwater sustainability planning. The regulations must identify GSP components and information to assist plan and coordination agreement development and implementation (Water Code § 10733.2).

### **Dec. 31, 2016: DWR estimate of water available for groundwater replenishment due**

DWR publishes its estimate of the water available for groundwater replenishment on its website (Water Code § 10729(c)).

### **Jan. 1, 2017: Basin deadline to submit alternative to a GSP**

Medium- and high-priority basins choosing to meet sustainability objectives by ways other than groundwater sustainability planning (which includes not forming a Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA)) must submit their alternatives to DWR (and then again every five years). (Water Code § 10733.6).

### **Jan. 1, 2017: DWR will establish best management practices for sustainable management**

DWR publishes best management practices for the sustainable management of groundwater on its website (Water Code § 10729(d)).

### **June 30, 2017: Deadline to form a GSA**

A local agency or agencies in each high- or medium-priority groundwater basin must have officially formed one or more (GSAs) for the entire basin (Water Code §§ 10724, 10735.2(a)(1)).

**June 30, 2017: State Water Board can begin to put basins on probation**

The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) can initiate probationary status to a medium- or high-priority basin if the basin lacks one or more GSA(s) that covers the entire basin or no alternative has been approved (Water Code § 10735.2(a)(1)).

**July 1, 2017: Those pumping in a probationary basin must report extractions**

Pumping groundwater in a basin that either has been designated as a probationary basin or lies outside a GSA's management area must be reported to the State Water Board. These reporting requirements do not apply to those extracting for domestic purposes 2 acre-feet per year or less, and some others (Water Code §§ 5202, 10724).

**Jan. 31, 2020: GSPs required for critically overdrafted basins**

Basins designated as high- or medium-priority and subject to critical conditions of overdraft must be managed under a GSP or GSPs. The State Water Board can initiate probationary status for all or part of a basin if there is no GSP, if the GSP is inadequate, or the GSP implementation will not likely achieve sustainability (Water Code § 10720.7(a)(1), 10735.2(a)(2), 10735.2(a)(3) ).

**Jan. 31, 2022: GSPs required for all remaining high- and medium- priority groundwater basins**

All remaining basins designated as high- or medium-priority must be managed under a GSP or GSPs. The State Water Board can initiate probationary status in 2022 for all or part of a basin if there is no GSP, if the GSP is inadequate, or the GSP implementation will not likely achieve sustainability except for basins where groundwater extractions result in significant depletion of interconnected surface waters (Water Code § 10720.7(a)(2), 10735.2(a)(4), and 10735.2(a)(5)(A)).

**Jan 31, 2025: State Water Board actions where extractions impact surface waters**

The State Water Board can initiate probationary status for those medium- or high-priority basin where the GSP is inadequate or implementation is not likely to achieve sustainability AND the basin is in a condition where groundwater extractions result in significant depletion of interconnected surface waters (Water Code § 10735(a)(5)(B).

**Jan. 31, 2022 -2024: DWR completes evaluation of all GSPs**

DWR must evaluate and issue an assessment of a GSP within two years of submission by a GSA. DWR may include recommendations for addressing any deficiencies in the GSP (Water Code § 10733.4(d)).

**Jan. 31, 2040 - 2042: Basins must achieve sustainability**

A GSP must include measurable objectives and milestones in increments of five years to achieve sustainability within 20 years of GSP adoption (Water Code § 10727.2(b)(1)).