

# Staff Report

for the Board of Directors' Meeting of October 24, 2018

**TO:** Board of Directors

**FROM:** Chip Close, Water Operations Manager

**DATE:** October 17, 2018

**SUBJECT:** Update on Groundwater Sustainability Plan Development

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## *OPERATIONS*

### **RECOMMENDATION ACTION:**

Receive an update on Sustainable Groundwater Management Act activities by the West Placer Groundwater Sustainability Agency, including development of the required Groundwater Sustainability Plan.

### **BACKGROUND:**

In May of 2017 NID committed to sustainable groundwater management by signing a Memorandum of Understanding to join with regional partners in the formation of the West Placer Groundwater Sustainability Agency (WPGSA). The WPGSA is dedicated to compliance with the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) while maintaining local control of our groundwater sub-basin. The District's participation in the WPGSA will help protect groundwater supplies in the North American Sub basin (NASb) in Western Placer County where portions of the District's service area overlay. NID views groundwater management as an integral component of a diversified water supply strategy. Participation in the WPGSA is critical to ensuring resource protection and overall sustainability.

The passage of SGMA in 2015 brought forth some of the first ground water regulations in the state. The primary requirements of SGMA include:

- Submittal of optional Alternative Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSP) to the State Department of Water Resources (DWR) by January 1, 2017
- Formation of a Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) by June 30, 2017
- Development of Groundwater Sustainability Plans by 2022

Since the May 2017 formation, the WPGSA and partner agencies have conducted several technical studies and stakeholder outreach activities that will be described in staff's PowerPoint presentation. In brief, these activities include:

- Groundwater Quality Studies
- Stakeholder Communications Plan

- Stakeholder Public Meetings
- Applied for and received a \$995,000 Proposition 1 Grant
- GSP Working Group Formation

### **GSP Initial Notification Process**

The California Water Code and GSP regulations require GSAs to submit an on-line Initial Notification to the State Department of Water Resources (DWR) that includes specific information related to GSP development and opportunities for public participation. The submitting GSA must also share that information with legislative bodies within geographic areas covered by the GSP. Where multiple GSAs are preparing a single GSP, a single GSP Initial Notification must be submitted on behalf of all GSAs.

The Sacramento Groundwater Authority (SGA), one of our NASb partners, has filed the required Initial Notification on behalf of the five NASb GSAs. A Memorandum of Agreement detailing the obligations for the GSP will be brought before your BOS later this year.

There are no formal adoption requirements related to GSP Initial Notifications. This update is to provide the Board and the Public with an update on recent SGMA activities. In addition, various opportunities for public comment on decision points of the GSP will be outlined.

Next steps in the GSP process include:

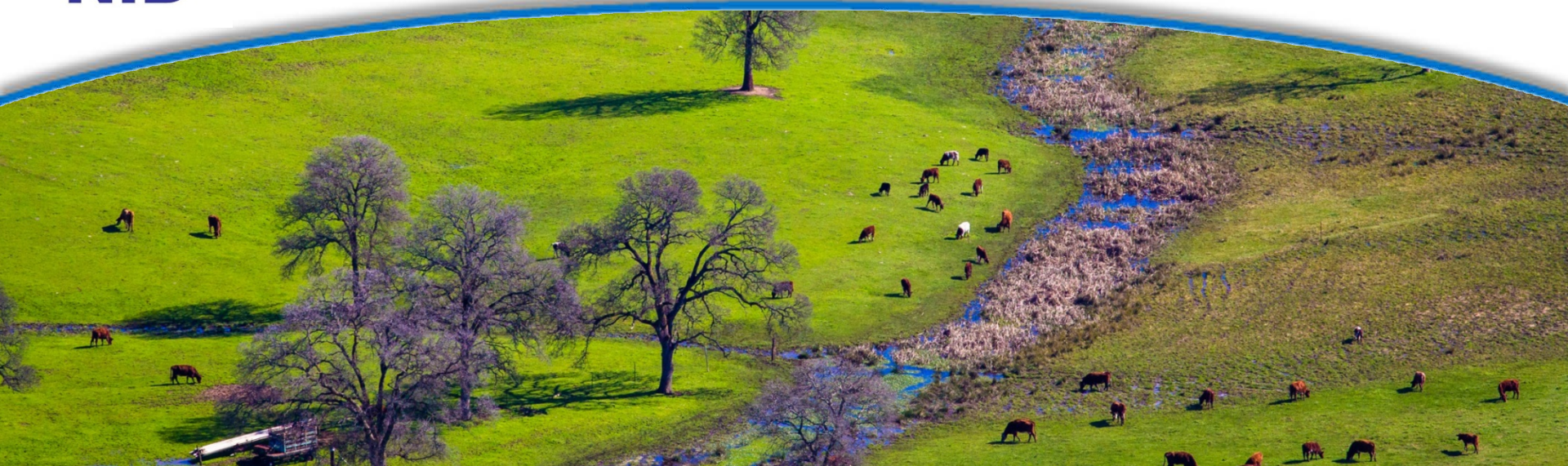
- Receipt of public input through DWR on-line system
- Multiple-agency public outreach meetings
- Local outreach regarding development of the GSP

### **BUDGETARY IMPACT:**

There is no fiscal impact as this is an informational item.

Consistent with the WPGSA MOU, each of the five Member agencies (Placer County, Placer County Water Agency, City of Roseville, City of Lincoln, and Nevada Irrigation District) have agreed to support this effort with an annual contribution of \$50,000, with the California American Water Company contributing \$25,000 as a non-member agency.

# Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) Regional Update



# Sustainable Groundwater Management Act Requirements

## **SGMA Major Milestones and Requirements:**

- Form Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA): June 30, 2017
- Submit Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP): January 1, 2022
- Perform Public Outreach to all Stakeholders throughout process

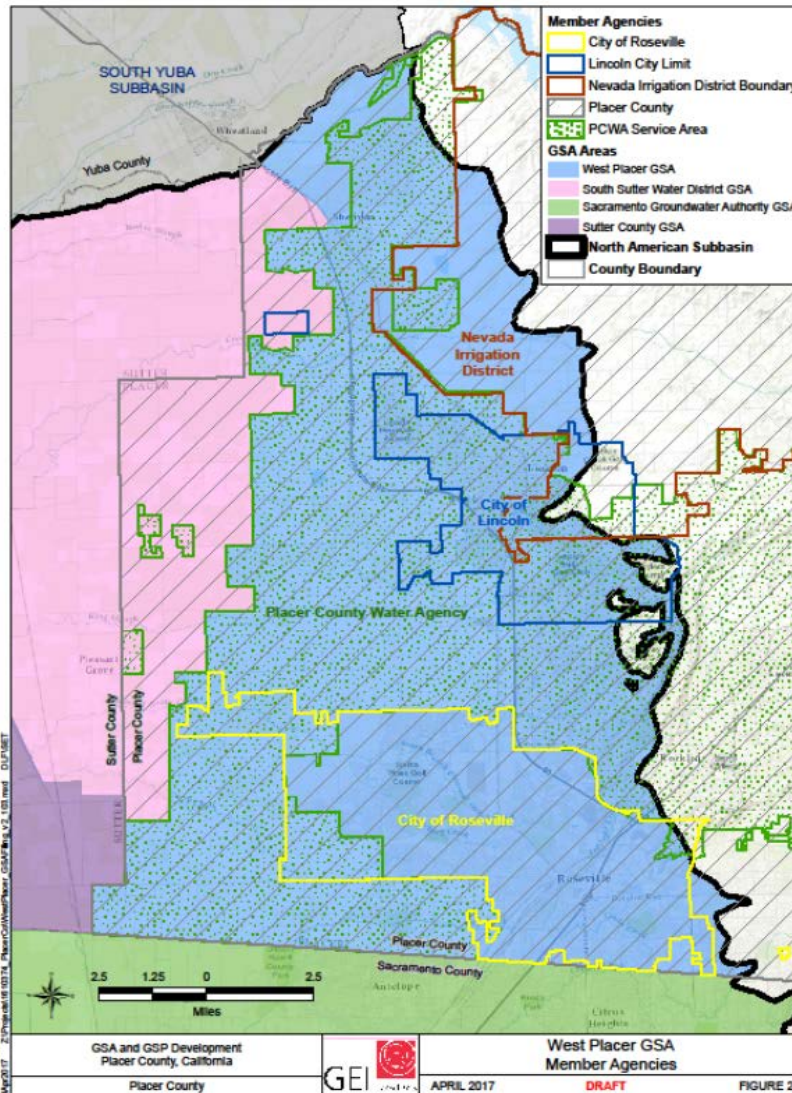
## **SGMA Groundwater Basin in Western Placer County:**

- High Priority: North American Subbasin (NASb)





# West Placer Groundwater Sustainability Agency



GSA for the portion of the North American Sub-basin in western Placer County

## Forming Agencies:

City of Lincoln

City of Roseville

Placer County Water Agency (PCWA)

Placer County

Nevada Irrigation District

Cal American Water (Cal Am)



# West Placer Groundwater Sustainability Agency Status

## Groundwater Quality Study 2015 – 2017:

- 58 samples collected from 55 monitoring wells throughout Western Placer County
- Over 100 chemicals analyzed, including:
  - General minerals
  - Metals
  - Volatile organic compounds
  - Nitrate and Perchlorate
- **None of the wells sampled were drinking water sources**
- **All water delivered through municipal systems meets drinking water standards**



# West Placer Groundwater Sustainability Agency Status

## Conclusions:

- West Placer portion of the NASb is at sustainable levels
- Groundwater quality is generally good throughout the basin
- Routine sampling of wells will continue on an annual basis
- A few selected wells and constituents are being evaluated for long-term trends
- Water quality data will be used during development of GSP

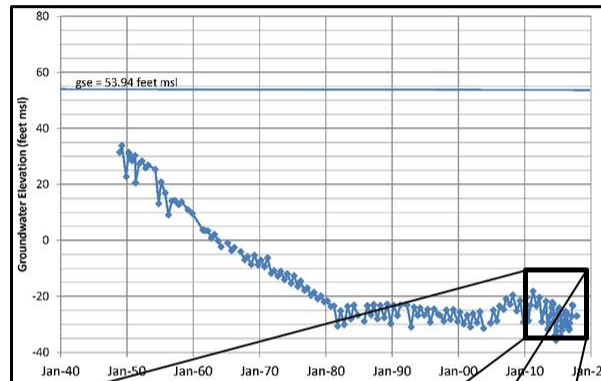




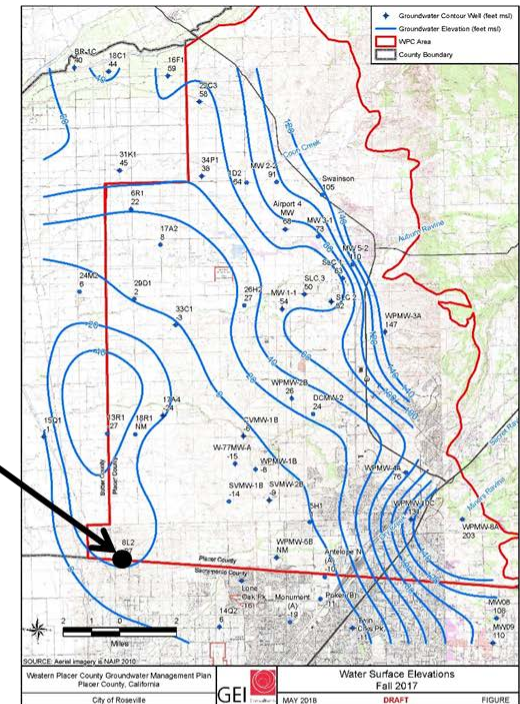
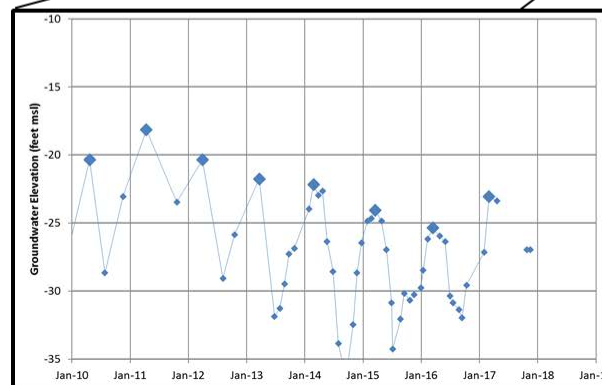
# West Placer Groundwater Sustainability Agency Status

Aquifer response  
to recent drought  
conditions

Pre-1980  
decline  
>55 feet



Decline during  
recent drought:  
7 feet

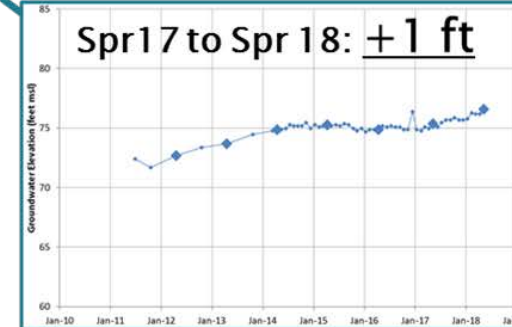
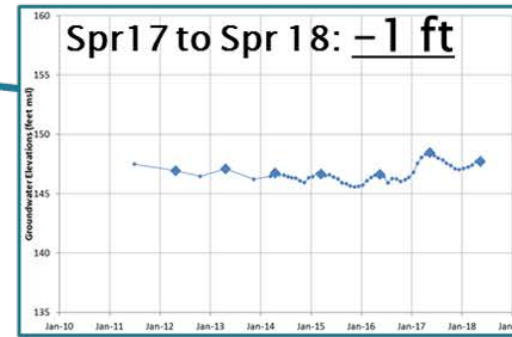
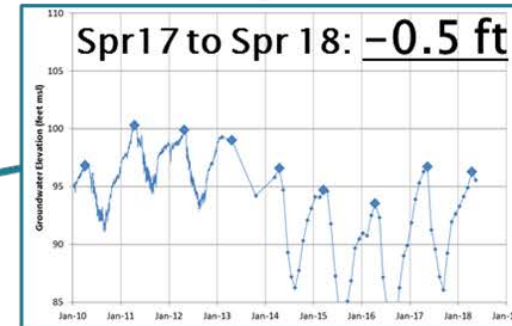
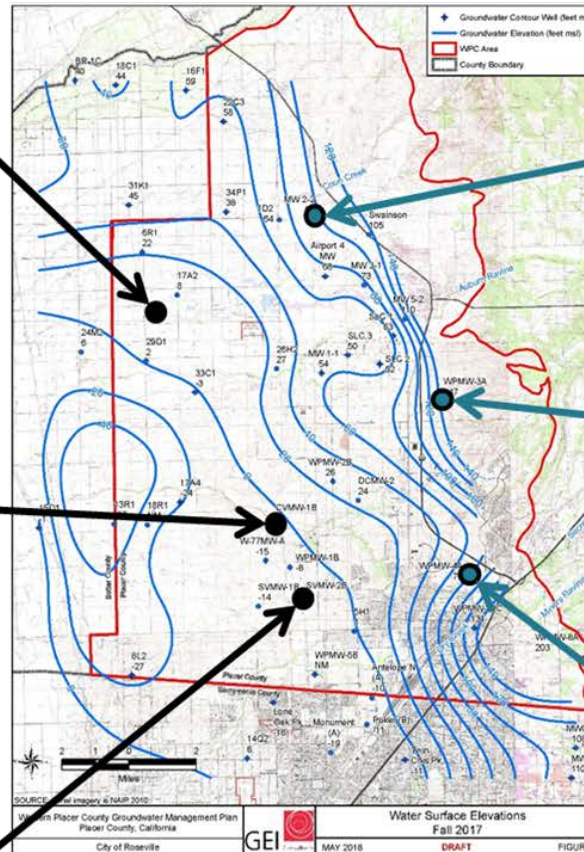
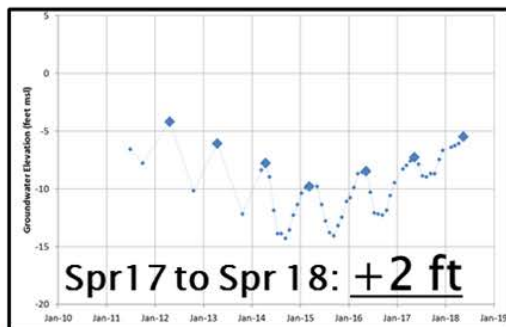
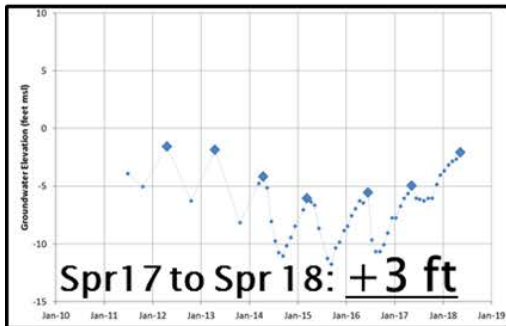
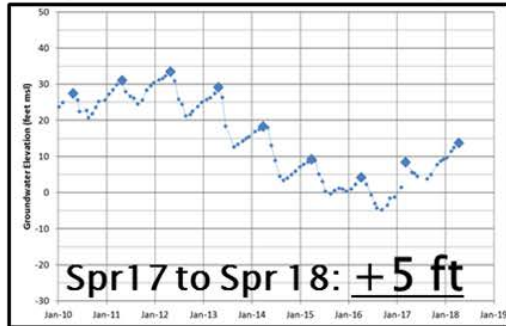




# West Placer Groundwater Sustainability Agency Status

Wells in western  
portion of county

Wells in foothills  
recharge area



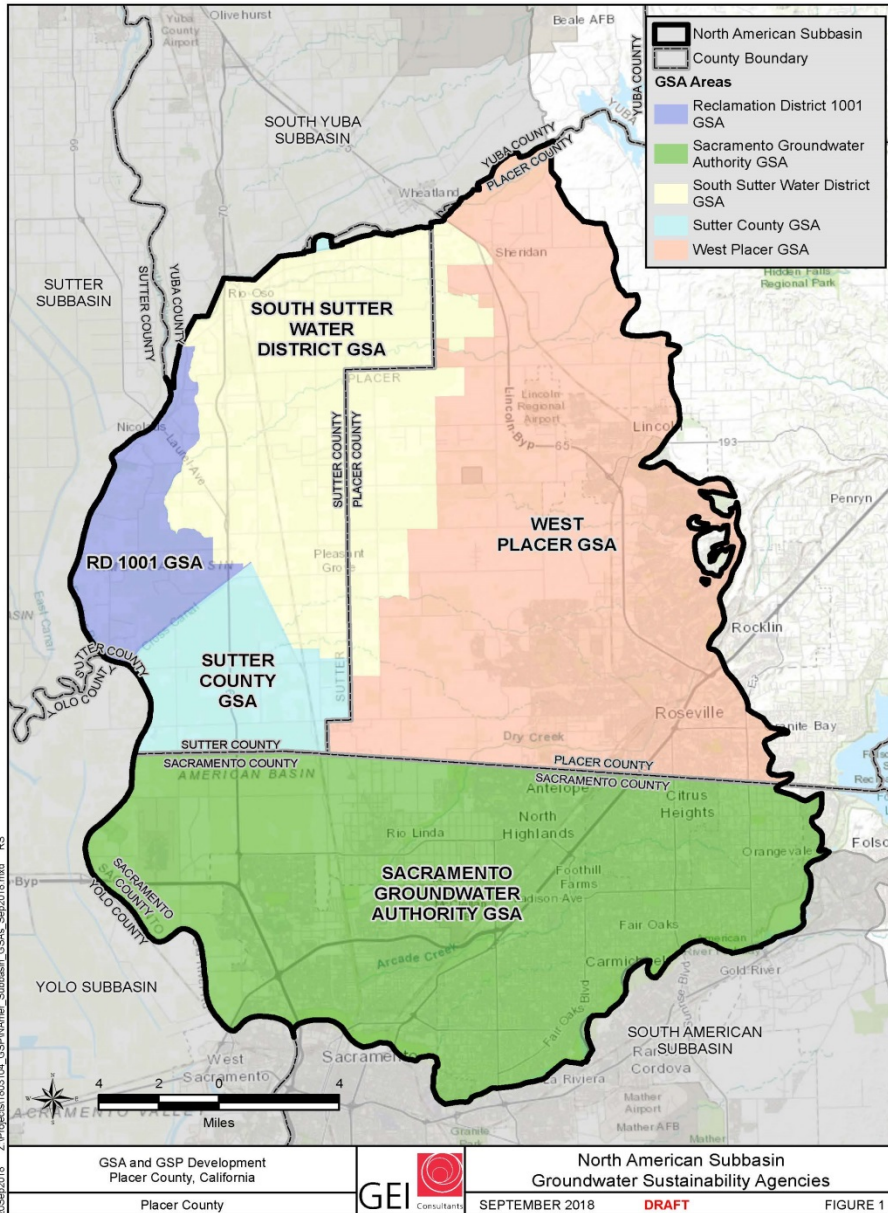
# West Placer Groundwater Sustainability Agency Actions

- **Formed WPGSA in 2017**
  - Recognized by DWR as SGMA agency
  - Placer County designated as Administering Agency
- **Held multiple public outreach meetings**
- **Hired groundwater consultant (GEI, Inc.)**
  - To perform technical studies and support WPGSA activities
  - To evaluate and develop a agriculture recharge project





# North American Sub-basin Status



## Cooperating Agencies:

Sacramento GSA  
(lead agency)

West Placer GSA

South Sutter Water District  
GSA

Sutter County GSA

RD 1001 GSA



# North American Sub-basin Status

## Five GSA's cooperating to develop one GSP

- Submitted Prop 1 grant application for \$995,000 and won!
- Completed RFP processes to select technical consultants
  - Modeling: Woodard & Curran
  - GSP development: GEI Consultants
  - GSP well database: GEI Consultants
  - Surface water to groundwater database: MBK Engineering
- In the works
  - Grant agreement with DWR
  - Consultant agreements once grant agreement executed





# North American Sub-basin GSP Budget and Funding

## Budget

- NASb has a \$2M budget
- Budget is spread across three years
- Will fund development of GSP and needed technical studies

## Funding

- Prop 1 grant from DWR: \$995,000
- Contributions from 5 GSAs: \$1.1M (cost-share allocated by acreage)
- WPGSA's estimated share - \$241,000 + in-kind



# North American Sub-basin Groundwater Sustainability Plan

**Once consultant contracts are in place:**

- GSP strategy (what GSP will look like) – estimated spring 2019
- Modeling information (projected future groundwater levels) – estimated spring/summer 2019
- Potential decision points regarding future groundwater use for each GSA area – estimated by late fall of 2019



# West Placer Groundwater Sustainability Agency Public Outreach

- Conducted Agriculture outreach with DWR supported consultant
- Developed and implemented Communications Plan for GSA formation
- Briefed Agriculture Commission
- Developed WPGSA website
- Developed and maintained stakeholder contact list
- Held public meetings (3 since formation of GSA)
- Conducted engagement survey to stakeholders
- Began Communications Plan for GSP Development



# Groundwater Sustainability Plan Notification Process

## GSP Initial Notification Requirements

The GSP regulations require GSAs to submit an Initial Notification to DWR that includes specific information related to public participation:

*“Each Agency (GSA) shall notify the Department, in writing, prior to initiating development of a Plan (GSP). The notification shall provide general information about the GSA’s process for developing the GSP, including the manner in which interested parties may contact the GSA and participate in the development and implementation of the GSP. The GSA shall make the information publicly available by posting relevant information on the GSA’s website.”*

Where multiple GSAs are preparing a single GSP, a single GSP Initial Notification must be submitted on behalf of all GSAs.

There are no formal adoption requirements related to GSP Initial Notifications.



# Groundwater Sustainability Plan Notification Process

- Sacramento Groundwater Authority (SGA), as the NASb representative, submitted the Initial Notification
- SGA provide the required Initial Notification information to each legislative body and water agency in the NASb area
- WPGSA member agencies will share this information at their board/council meetings, as well as at meetings with other entities, to designate the beginning of the GSP preparation process
- Information about the GSP process and public participation will be posted on the WPGSA website and newly formed NASb website
- The DWR on-line Initial Notification portal provides the method for posting of public comments. All comments will be emailed to GSA points of contact



# Groundwater Sustainability Plan Notification Process

## Required information from Initial Notification

- Developing the GSP will begin with completion of a communication and outreach plan by each GSA
- A webpage ([nasbgroundwater.org](http://nasbgroundwater.org)) is currently under development that will be used for continued interested party engagement
- Interested parties will be able to sign up to receive notifications
- The next phase will involve development of a computer model of the NASb to assess current and future sustainability of the basin
- Interested stakeholders may contact Rob Swartz of the SGA GSA at [rswartz@rwah2o.org](mailto:rswartz@rwah2o.org) or 916-967-7692 or any of the individual GSA contacts



# Groundwater Sustainability Plan Notification Process

## Where to find information on GSP Initial Notification

- DWR Portal for comments:  
<https://sgma.water.ca.gov/portal/#gsp>
- NASb website: <https://nasbgroundwater.org>  
(under development)
- WPGSA website: <http://westplacergroundwater.com/>



# Questions?

