
SGMA UPDATES, COORDINATION CONSIDERATIONS, AND POTENTIAL NEXT STEPS

21 FEBURARY 2018
COSUMNES SUBBASIN WORKING GROUP / TAC MEETING



OUTLINE

- SGMA Updates
- Coordination in SGMA – Requirements, Structures, and Opportunities



SGMA UPDATES – PROP 1 FUNDING

- Proposal submitted Nov 2017
- Draft grant award released 6 Feb 2018
 - Cosumnes Subbasin grant application score: **19 / 19**
 - DWR draft Prop 1 funding recommendation: **\$1,000,000 (!)**
- Comment period closes 21 February 2018 at 5:00pm (today!)
- Final awards expected end of March / early April



2017 SGWP Grant Solicitation Evaluation	
CATEGORY 2	
Southeast Sacramento County Agricultural Water Authority Establishing a Groundwater Sustainability Plan and Governance Structure for the Cosumnes Groundwater Sub Basin	
Number of Projects	1
Total Proposal Level Score	6
Total Project Level Score	13
Tie-Breaker Points from Program Preferences Section (If Applicable)	
Grand Total	19

Q#	Questions	Attachment(s)	Possible Points	Score
Proposal Level Evaluation				
1	Does the Proposal Summary describe a well-coordinated Proposal including GSPs that encompass the entire basin or describes why a portion of the basin is not covered in the Proposal?	3	4	4
2	Collectively, do the Budget and Schedule demonstrate that all of the projects will be completed by the SGMA deadline for the respective basin (January 31, 2020 for critically overdrafted basins or January 31, 2022 for other high and medium priority basins)?	5, 6	2	2
Total Range of Possible Points			0-6	6

Q#	Questions	Attachment(s)	Possible Points	Score	GSP Development
Project Level Evaluation					
3	Has the applicant addressed all of the items requested in the Project Justification Section of Attachment 3 (i.e. Proposal Summary and Project Support)?	3	4	4	
4	Does the applicant provide an explanation of the Technical Need for the project?	3	2	2	
5	Does the application contain a detailed Work Plan that includes tasks for developing, preparing, and submitting a complete GSP?	4	4	4	
6	Does the application contain a complete Budget that is reasonable to execute the Work Plan on the Schedule described?	5	2	2	
7	Does the level of effort described in the Work Plan, does the Schedule seem reasonable?	6	1	1	
Total Range of Possible Points			0-23	13	

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SGMA UPDATES – TECHNICAL SUPPORT SERVICES

- DWR Technical Support Services (TSS) webpage now live
 - Application portal not yet available; anticipated early Spring 2018
- Online application portal, must first contact DWR Regional Office and Headquarters
 - GSAs must first submit initial notification of GSP development before applying for TSS funding
- TSS grants are NOT first-come, first-serve, as previously suggested
 - “Funding availability will need to be distributed based on demand”
 - DWR will also “assess overlap in current State funding”
 - Initial priority given to critically overdrafted basins



* <https://www.water.ca.gov/Programs/Groundwater-Management/Assistance-and-Engagement>

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SGMA UPDATES – TECHNICAL SUPPORT SERVICES (2)

- Types of Technical Support Services offered include:
 - Groundwater Level Monitoring Training
 - Borehole Video Logging
 - Geophysical Logging
 - Geologic Logging
 - **Monitoring Well Installation**
 - Modeling Training and Support

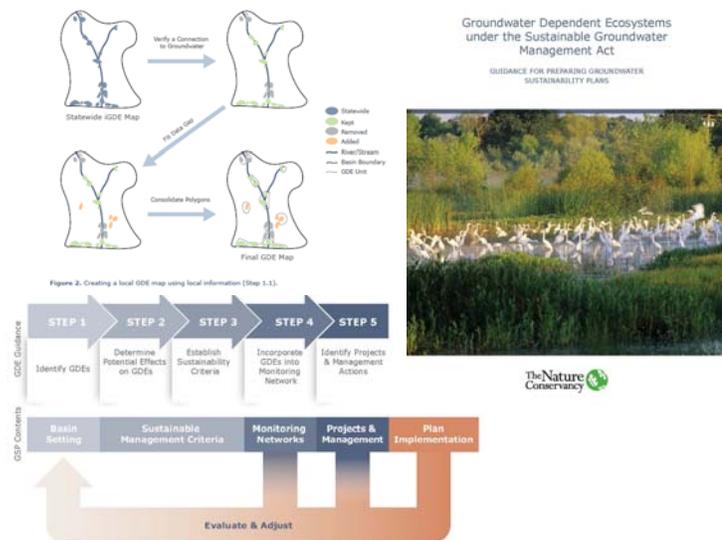


* <https://www.water.ca.gov/Programs/Groundwater-Management/Assistance-and-Engagement>

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SGMA UPDATES – GROUNDWATER DEPENDENT ECOSYSTEMS (GDEs)

- The Nature Conservancy (TNC) has released a *Guidance Document* to help GSAs effectively incorporate GDEs into their GSPs
- This document provides step-by-step advice for identifying, characterizing, mapping GDEs and developing sustainability criteria to protect GDEs from lowering groundwater levels, streamflow depletion
- DWR's own *Guidance Document* and *Statewide GIS Database* for GDEs is still in development, anticipated for release in Spring 2018



* <https://www.water.ca.gov/Programs/Groundwater-Management/Assistance-and-Engagement>

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SGMA UPDATES – EASTERN SAN JOAQUIN (ESJ) SUBBASIN

- EKI attended regular Board meeting of the Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority (ESJ GWA) on 14 February 2018
 - ESJ Basin Prop I application fully funded
 - ESJ GWA has hired consultant for GSP Development through RFQ process
 - ESJ GWA cost share allocation for GSP development finalized
 - “Even split” between 17 participating GSAs
 - Supplemented by San Joaquin County “Zone 2” funding contribution



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SGMA UPDATES – ESJ SUBBASIN (2)

- EKI spoke with ESJ County rep (15 February 2018), RE: Opportunities for Coordination
 - Currently there is a monthly JPA meeting
 - Considering formation of a TAC or other subcommittees to support GSP development
 - Interested in coordination with Cosumnes, but not sure how “formal” it needs to be



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COORDINATION IN SGMA

- A statutory requirement of GSP development
- Multi-faceted, involving various entities and levels of involvement:
 - **Intrabasin Coordination** – Between GSAs within a Basin
 - **Interbasin Coordination** – Between GSAs across Basin lines
 - **Stakeholder Engagement** – Between GSAs and local stakeholders / beneficial users
- Part of DWR’s evaluation criteria for an “Approved” GSP⁽¹⁾

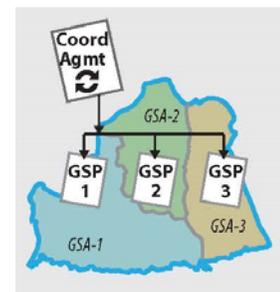


(1) GSP Regulations §355.2(e)

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INTRABASIN COORDINATION REQUIREMENTS

- One GSP submittal will be accepted per Basin by DWR
- Coordination agreements are required if more than one GSA within a basin intends to submit a GSP
- Coordination agreements must describe “a process for submitting all Plans, Plan amendments, supporting information, all monitoring data and other pertinent information, along with annual reports and periodic evaluations” ⁽¹⁾

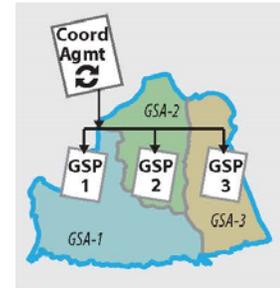


(1) GSP Regulations §357.4
Figure source: DWR, 2016. GSP Emergency Regulations Guide.

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INTRABASIN COORDINATION REQ.'S (2)

- Coordination agreements must describe...: ⁽¹⁾
 - A point of contact on behalf of the Basin (i.e. “Plan Manager”)
 - The responsibilities of each GSA for meeting the terms of the agreement
 - Procedures for exchange of information between GSAs
 - Procedures for resolving conflicts between GSAs
 - How the GSPs, implemented together, satisfy the requirements of SGMA

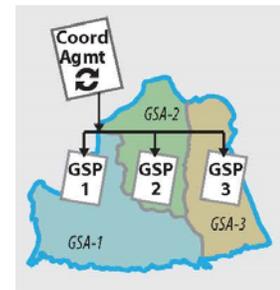


(1) GSP Regulations §357.4
Figure source: DWR, 2016. GSP Emergency Regulations Guide.

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INTRABASIN COORDINATION REQ.'S (3)

- Coordination agreements must outline how the GSAs used the same data and methodologies to prepare the GSP, including: ⁽¹⁾
 - Groundwater elevation data
 - Basin-wide water budget and Sustainable Yield estimate
 - Definition of Undesirable Results
 - Basin-wide Data Management System (DMS)

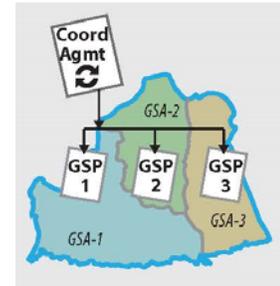


(1) GSP Regulations §357.4
Figure source: DWR, 2016. GSP Emergency Regulations Guide.

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INTRABASIN COORDINATION CAN CREATE ADDITIONAL EFFICIENCIES

- GSAs may further benefit through coordination on:
 - Implementing a stakeholder engagement plan
 - Developing sustainable management criteria
 - Developing & managing monitoring networks
 - Developing projects and management actions
 - Developing a GSP implementation plan
 - Pursuing funding opportunities for GSP implementation



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DWR EVALUATION OF GSPs

Criteria for Plan Evaluation

*“A Plan will be evaluated, and its implementation assessed, consistent with the objective that a basin be sustainably managed within 20 years of Plan implementation **without adversely affecting the ability of an adjacent basin to implement its Plan or achieve and maintain its sustainability goal over the planning and implementation horizon.**”⁽¹⁾*

Additional GSP Requirements Regarding Adjacent Basins:

- Minimum thresholds shall be designed *“to avoid causing undesirable results in adjacent basins or affecting the ability of adjacent basins to achieve sustainability goals”*⁽²⁾
- Design of monitoring network shall consider *“the potential to adversely affect the ability of an adjacent basin to implement its Plan or impede achievement of sustainability goals in an adjacent basin.”*⁽³⁾

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(1) GSP Regulations §350.4(f)
 (2) GSP Regulations §350.28(b)(3)
 (3) GSP Regulations §354.38(e)(4)

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POTENTIAL AREAS OF INTERBASIN COORDINATION

- Modeling and water budgets
 - Are there opportunities to leverage modeling efforts of Eastern San Joaquin (ESJ), South American Subbasins, City of Roseville's Sacramento Regional Groundwater Model (SRM), or DWR's upcoming Sacramento Valley Simulation Model (SVSim)?
- Cross-boundary flows
 - How will recharge from the Cosumnes River will be parsed between S. American, Cosumnes Basins?
- Sustainability criteria
 - To ensure that minimum thresholds will not impede neighboring basins from meeting sustainability goal, and vice-a-versa
- Monitoring networks
 - Are there opportunities for coordinated monitoring networks along the Cosumnes River?
- Projects and management actions
 - e.g., potential coordinated recharge projects along Cosumnes River floodplain / gravel channel outcroppings?



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INTERBASIN COORDINATION AGREEMENTS

- Optional interbasin agreements between GSAs in adjacent basins can include information on sustainability criteria and a monitoring network that would “confirm no adverse impacts result from the implementation of the Plans of any party to the agreement”⁽¹⁾
 - Can also contain:
 - An estimate of groundwater flow across basin boundaries
 - An estimate of stream aquifer interactions at boundaries
 - Common understanding of relevant hydrogeologic characteristics
- Interbasin agreements can help to establish early coordination between basins and avoid problematic disagreements after key GSP elements have already been prepared for each basin



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(1) GSP Regulations §357.2(b)(4)
Figure source: DWR, 2016. GSP Emergency Regulations Guide.

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POTENTIAL TIMING ISSUES

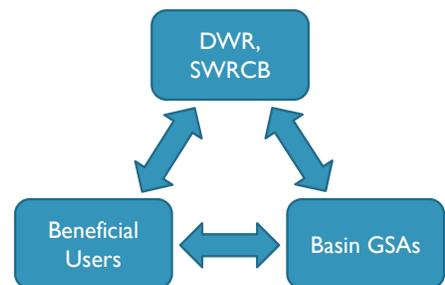
- Neighboring Basins are implementing SGMA on an accelerated timeframe:
 - Cosumnes Subbasin – GSP due January 2022
 - ESJ Subbasin – GSP due January 2020; estimated completion October 2019
 - South American Subbasin – Alternative Plan submitted in 2017
- Interbasin coordination will be necessary early on in the GSP development process to ensure neighboring GSPs / Alternative Plans align with Cosumnes Subbasin sustainability criteria, management framework (and vice-a-versa)



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STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

- Effects on *beneficial uses and users* of groundwater or land uses and property interests must be considered in the development of minimum thresholds⁽¹⁾
- A thorough *stakeholder engagement plan* can help ensure that SMC developed will reflect the input of beneficial users of groundwater
- Local data (e.g., pumping data, land use data) will need to be compiled from basin stakeholders
- After a GSP is adopted and posted to DWR's SGMA portal, stakeholders will have a 60-day opportunity to comment on the adopted GSP⁽²⁾
 - DWR will consider these comments in their evaluation of GSPs



(1) GSP Emergency Regulations §354.28
 (2) GSP Emergency Regulations §353.8(c)

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QUESTIONS?

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