



DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

2014 Sustainable Groundwater Management Act



Colusa County Groundwater Commission Meeting October 23, 2014

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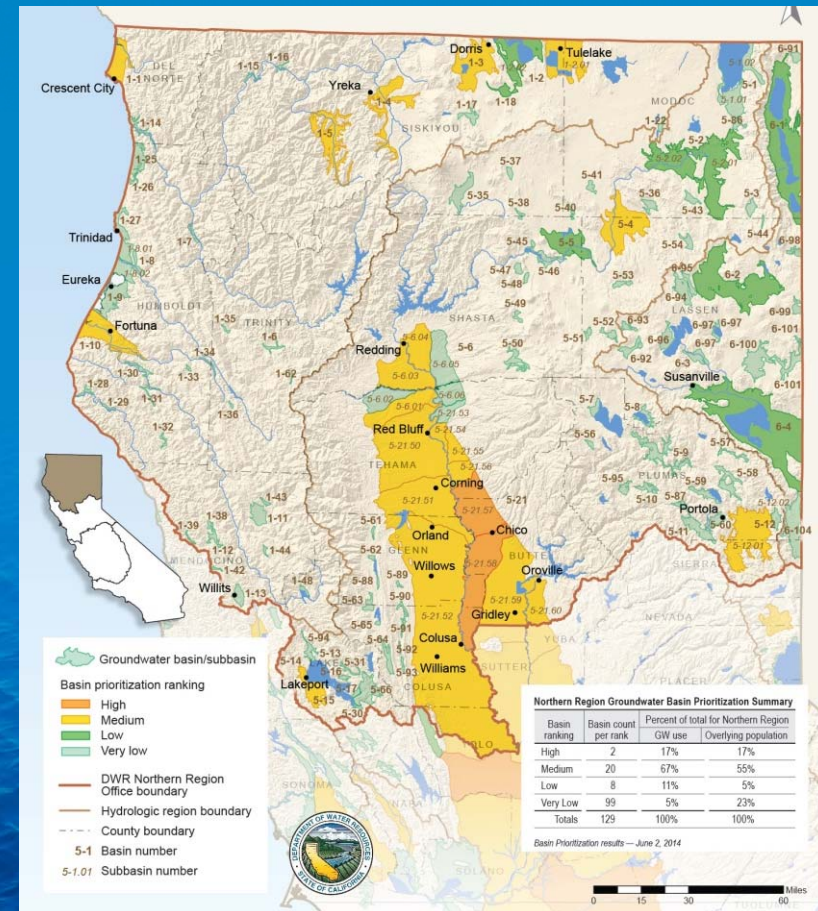


2014 Sustainable GW Management Legislation

Requires that a groundwater sustainability plan (GSP) be adopted for the most important groundwater basins in California

- Limited to “high & medium priority basins”
127 out of 515 basins in the state
- Adjudicated basins are exempt, except for minimal reporting
- “Low & very low priority” basins are exempt, though they are encouraged to adopt plans.

Basin Priority will be updated in January 2015 to include impacts to habitat and stream flow



2014 Sustainable GW Management Legislation

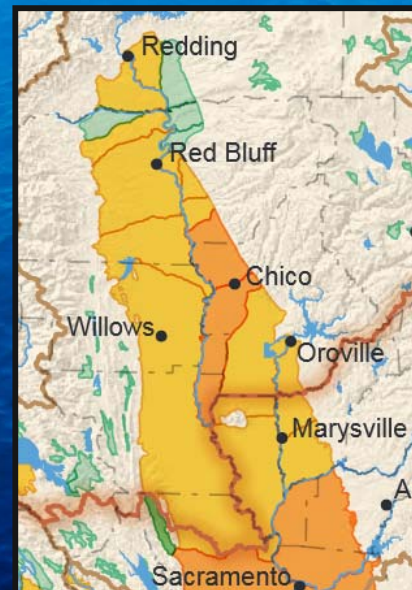
Establishes a timetable for adoption of GSPs

- By 2017, local groundwater sustainability agencies (GSA) must be identified.
- By 2020, overdrafted basins must be covered by a groundwater sustainability plan (GSP). Other high & medium priority basins not in overdraft must have plans by 2022.
- By 2040, each high & medium priority basin must achieve sustainability, though this can be extended by 10 years for good cause.



2014 Sustainable GW Management Legislation

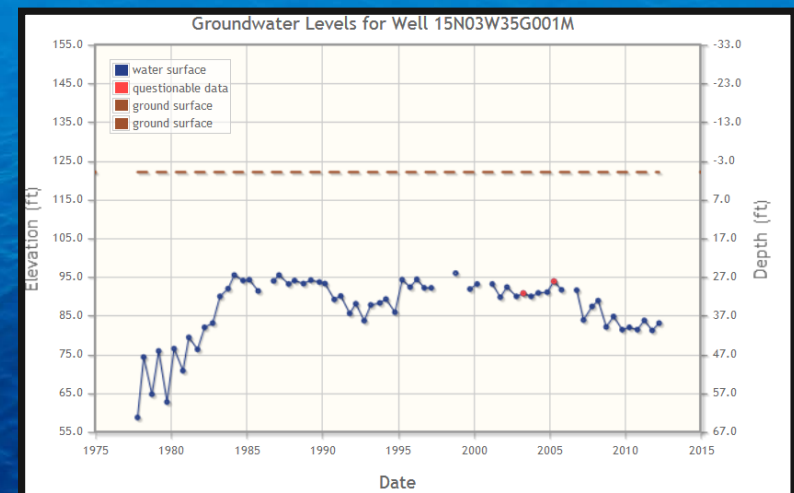
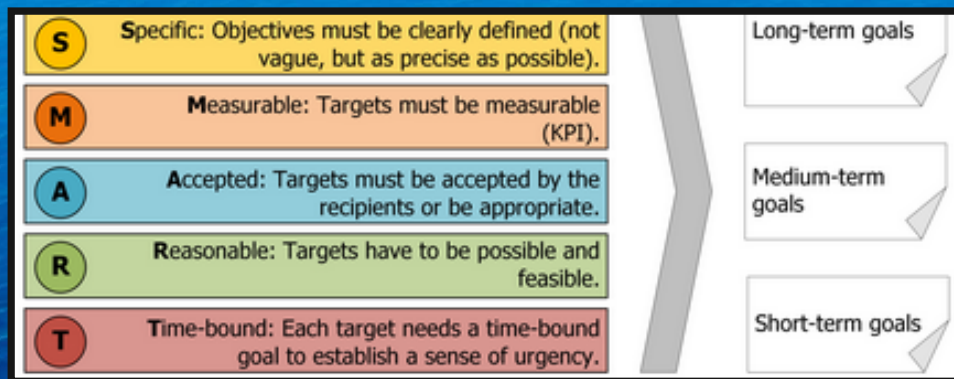
- **Empowers local agencies to manage their basins sustainably**
 - Gives local agencies new authority to:
 - Adopt and enforce rules,
 - Require registration of groundwater wells,
 - Measure and manage groundwater extraction,
 - Require reporting of use and assessment of fees
 - Request revisions of groundwater basin boundaries.
- “Local agency” means any local public agency that has water supply, water management, or land use responsibilities within a groundwater basin.



2014 Sustainable GW Management Legislation

Establishes Basic Requirements for GSPs:

- Description of physical setting
- Identification of groundwater conditions: (levels, quality, subsidence, groundwater – surface water interaction)
- Historic and projected water demands and supplies
- Maps: basin and agency boundaries, recharge areas.
- Measurable Objectives with Interim Milestones (every 5 yrs) to achieve sustainability in 20 yrs.
- Description of how GSP is given consideration in General Plans



2014 Sustainable GW Management Legislation

- **Establishes a definition of “sustainable groundwater management”**
“The management and use of groundwater in a manner that can be maintained during the planning and implementation horizon without causing undesirable results.”
- **Establishes a definition of “Undesirable Results”**
 - Chronic lowering of gw levels indicating a significant and unreasonable depletion of supply if continued over the planning and implementation horizon.
 - Significant and unreasonable reduction in groundwater storage
 - Significant and unreasonable degradation of water quality
 - Significant and unreasonable land subsidence that significantly interferes with surface land uses
 - Surface water depletions that have significant and unreasonable adverse impacts on beneficial uses of surface water

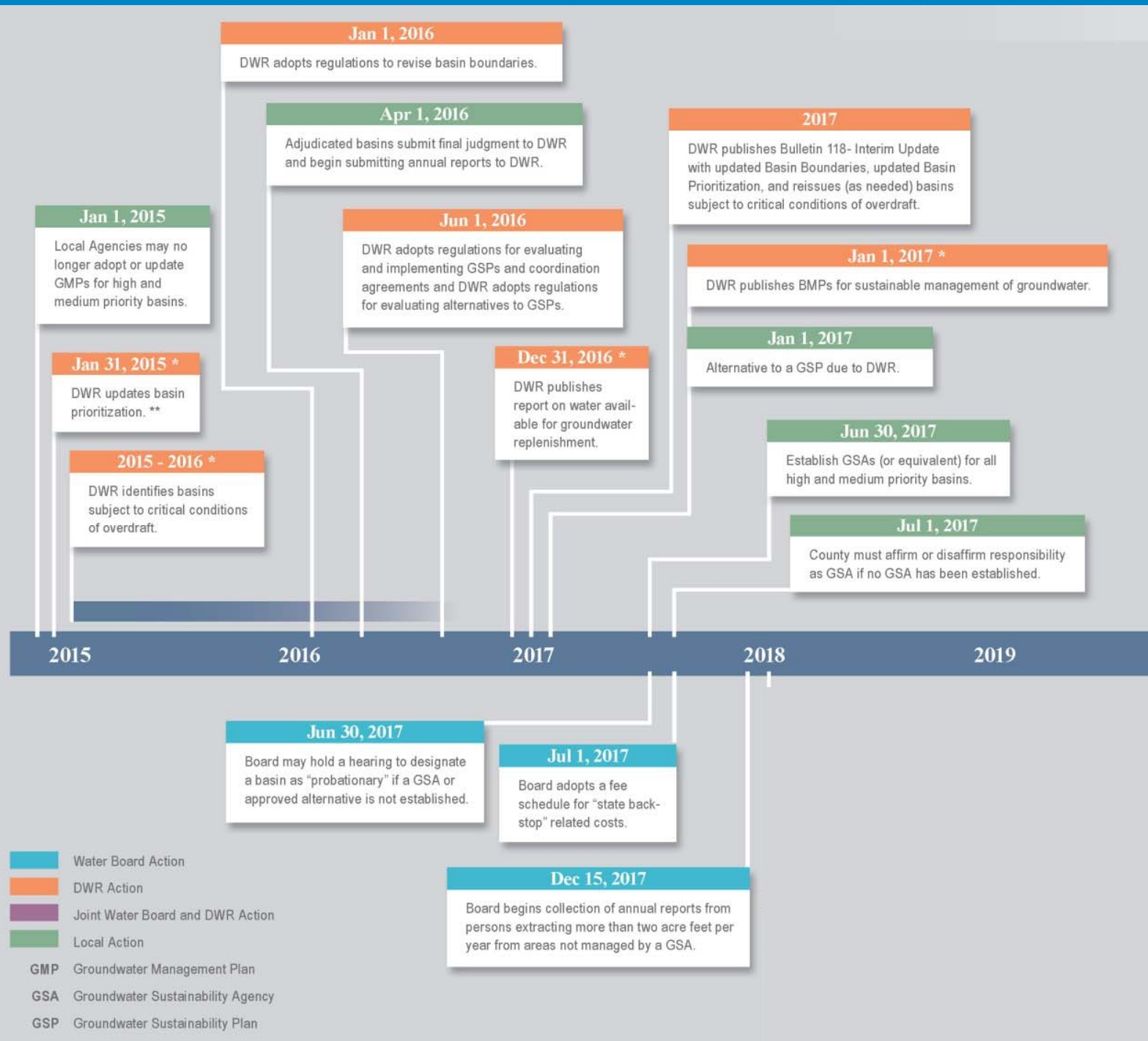


2014 Sustainable GW Management Legislation

- **Provides for a limited state role**
 - DWR will evaluate groundwater sustainability plans within two years of submission.
 - State Water Board may temporarily intervene in four limited circumstance.
 - No governance structure for a basin after 2 ½ years
 - No plan after five years (overdrafted basins) or ten years (other basins)
 - Plan is inadequate and the basin has serious groundwater problems
 - Local agency has not adequately implemented the plan and the basin has serious groundwater problems
- **State Board must return control to local agencies as soon as they adopt an adequate plan.**
- **State Board may limit its temporary control to the portion of the basin not being managed.**

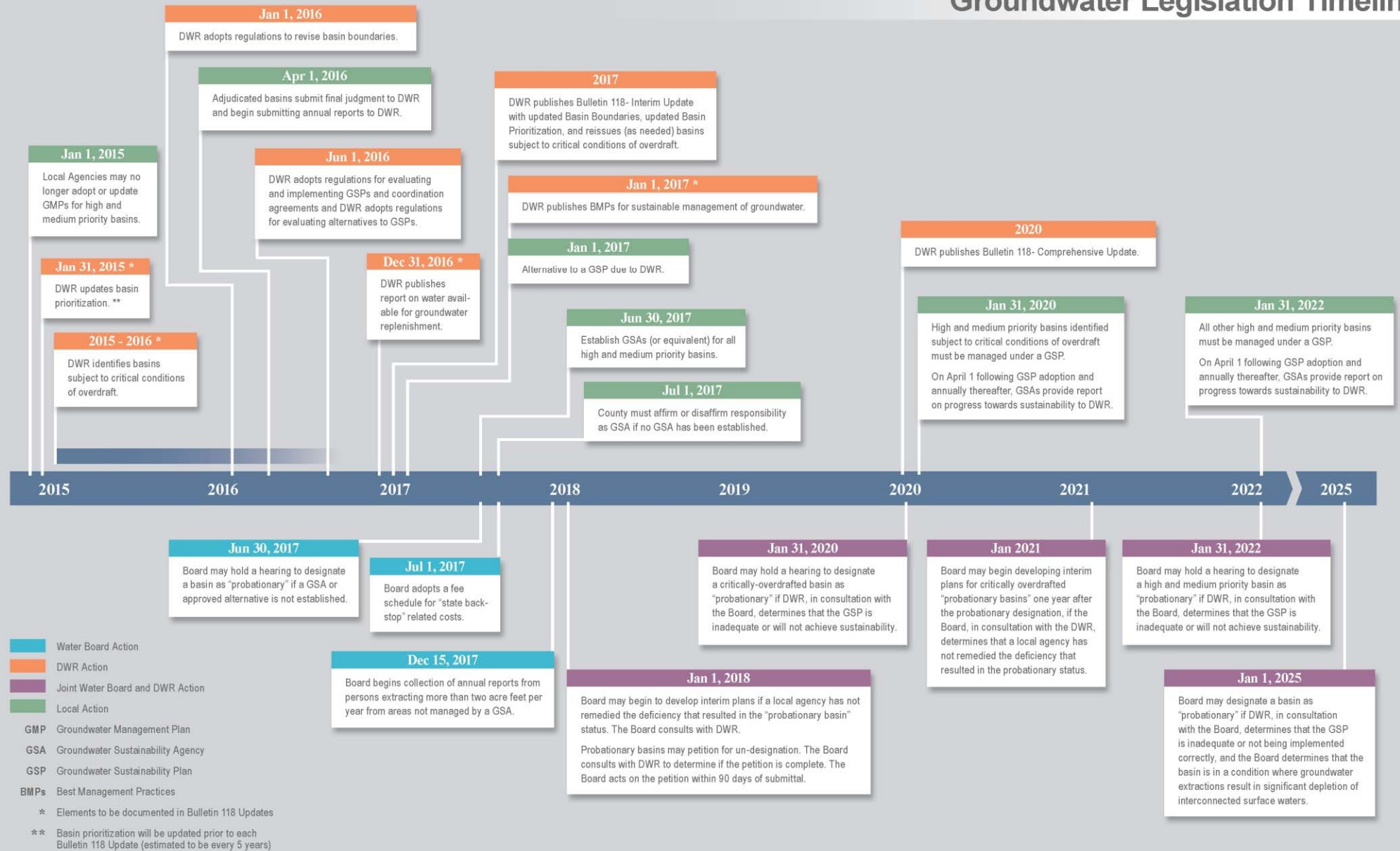


2014 Sustainable GWM Near-Term Timeline



2014 Sustainable GWM Expanded Timeline

Groundwater Legislation Timeline



2014 Sustainable GW Management Legislation

Summary:

- Establishes new state policy for sustainable management of groundwater resources
- Requires sustainable groundwater management for High & Medium priority basins
- Establishes basic requirements for Groundwater Sustainability Plans
- Empowers local agencies to manage their basins sustainably
- Does not alter or determine any surface water rights
- Does not alter the State Water Resources existing authority under current law
- Provides for temporary State intervention in limited circumstances



Questions?

DWR Groundwater Information Center:

<http://water.ca.gov/groundwater/index.cfm>



The screenshot shows the DWR Groundwater Information Center website. The header includes the CA.GOV logo, the text "CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES", and navigation links for HOME, NEWSROOM & EVENTS, ISSUES, and ABOUT US. A search bar is located in the top right corner. Below the header, there is a grid of links for Recent News, Podcasts, Media Resources, Publications, News Archive, Public Affairs, Publications/Other Media, Videos, Photo Library, Water Education Materials, Public Notices, and Calendar. The main content area is titled "Groundwater Information Center" and features an "Introduction" section. The introduction text states: "The Groundwater Information Center is DWR's portal for groundwater information, groundwater management plans, water well basics, and statewide and regional reports, maps and figures. California's groundwater provides approximately 30 to 46 percent of the State's total water supply, depending on wet or dry years, and serves as a critical buffer against drought and climate change. Some communities in California are 100 percent reliant upon groundwater for urban and agricultural use." Below this, it mentions DWR's long-standing history of collecting and analyzing groundwater data, investigating and reporting groundwater conditions, implementing local groundwater assistance grants, encouraging integrated water management, and providing the technical expertise needed to improve groundwater management practices. It also states that DWR will continue to work with local agencies and regional organizations to provide data that enables sustainable groundwater management. The Groundwater Information Center website will be updated as new information becomes available. A section titled "New Groundwater Legislation, Sustainable Groundwater Management Act" mentions that on September 16, 2014, Governor Jerry Brown signed into law a three-bill legislative package, known as the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act. A link "Read more here..." is provided. On the right side, there is a "Groundwater Information Center" sidebar with a list of links: Groundwater Basics, Maps and Reports, Groundwater Management (Key Legislation, Groundwater Management Plans, Developing a Groundwater Management Plan), Groundwater Well Information (Well Completion Reports, Well Standards, Well Inquiries, Well Permitting Agencies).

Introduction

The Groundwater Information Center is DWR's portal for groundwater information, groundwater management plans, water well basics, and statewide and regional reports, maps and figures. California's groundwater provides approximately 30 to 46 percent of the State's total water supply, depending on wet or dry years, and serves as a critical buffer against drought and climate change. Some communities in California are 100 percent reliant upon groundwater for urban and agricultural use.

DWR has a long-standing history of collecting and analyzing groundwater data, investigating and reporting groundwater conditions, implementing local groundwater assistance grants, encouraging integrated water management, and providing the technical expertise needed to improve groundwater management practices. DWR will continue to work with local agencies and regional organizations to provide data that enables sustainable groundwater management. The Groundwater Information Center website will be updated as new information becomes available.

New Groundwater Legislation, Sustainable Groundwater Management Act

On September 16, 2014, Governor Jerry Brown signed into law a three-bill legislative package, known as the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act.

[Read more here...](#)

Groundwater Information Center

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