



Sustainable Groundwater Management Act

Colusa County Public Meeting • May 12, 2015

CALIFORNIA

WATER
FOUNDATION®

An initiative of Resources Legacy Fund

Advance change:



- Better water policies
- Targeted regional investments
- New coalitions & voices

Long term water availability:

- Cities
- Farms
- Environment



2014: Year of Water



Historic Drought



Governor's Water Action Plan



SGMA Groundwater Legislation



Passage of Proposition 1

Groundwater in Context

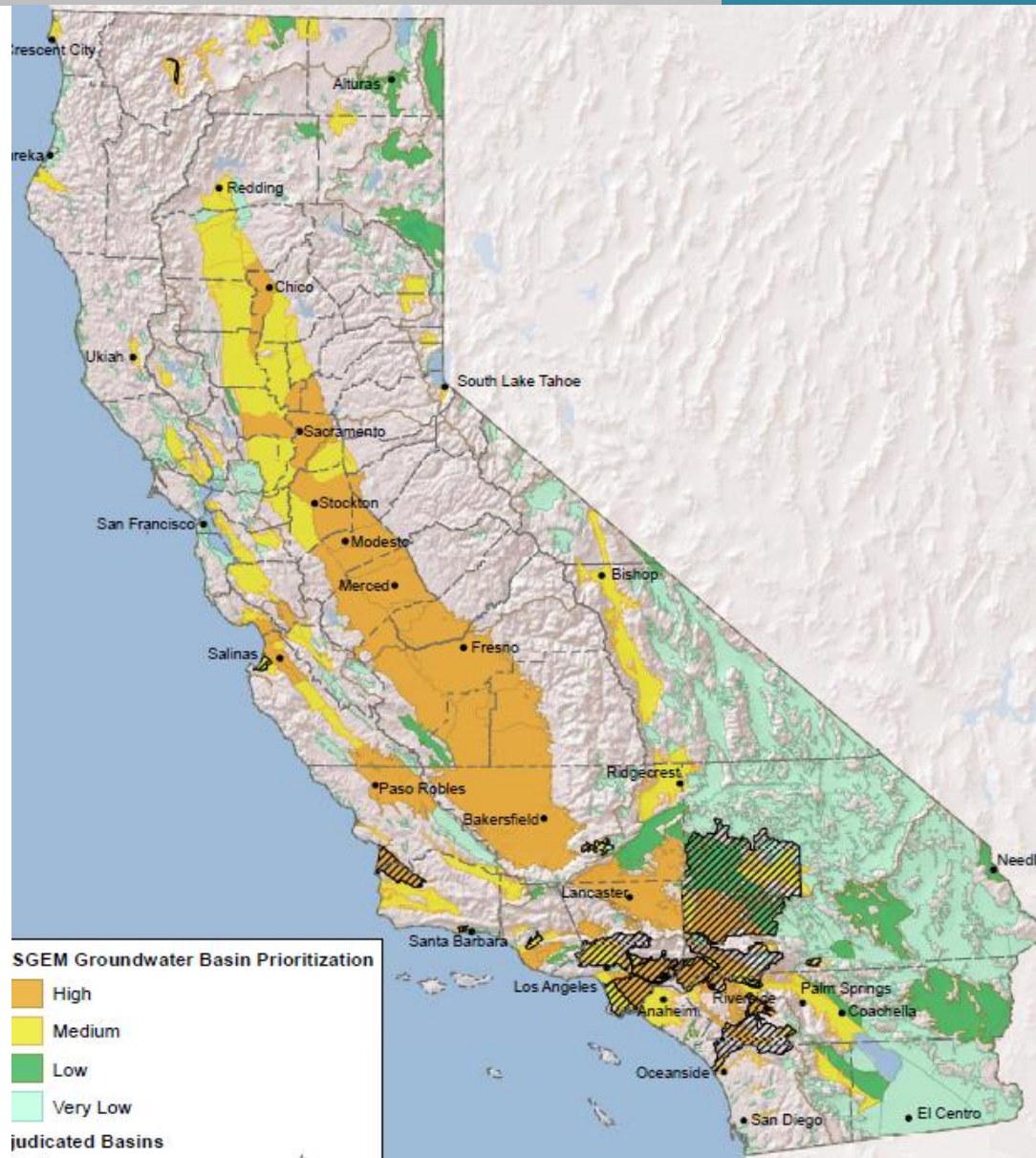
- Critical part of integrated water management
- Flexible source
- Statewide 40% average year; 60% dry year
- Several decades of increasing reliance



Comprehensive legislation to manage groundwater to sustainable levels

- Local management with state oversight
- Tools/authorities for local management
- Bulletin 118 basins
- Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSA)
- Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSP)

SGMA Groundwater Basins



Key Dates

Time	Action	Who
January 2016	Final Basin Boundary regulations	DWR
June 2016	Final GSP regulations	DWR
June 2017	Notice to DWR on GSA Formation	Local agencies
January 2020/2022	GSPs submitted to DWR management	Local GSAs
20-year implementation	GSP implementation and achieve sustainability goal	Local GSAs

- Who can be a GSA?
- Boundaries – Bulletin 118 (with modifications)
- Multiple GSAs allowed in each basin
- Exemptions
 - Alternative Process
 - Adjudicated basins



- Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSP)
 - Basin conditions & water budget
 - Measurable objectives & 5 yr milestones
 - Achieve sustainability in 20 years
- Multiple Plans require Coordination Agreements



Sustainability: Manage groundwater to prevent undesirable results (significant & unreasonable):

- Chronic lowering of groundwater levels
- Reduction of groundwater storage
- Seawater intrusion
- Degraded water quality
- Land subsidence
- Depletions of interconnected surface waters

SGMA – Local authorities

Local control: locals may use the following tools/authorities

- Adopt rules, regulations and ordinances
- Conduct investigations
- Require registration and measurement for extraction wells
- Impose well spacing requirements on new wells
- Limit groundwater extractions
- Manage water transfer program
- Impose fees



SGMA – State Role

■ DWR and SWRCB Roles

- Technical Assistance
- Financial Assistance
- Regulations
- Review GSPs/Alternative Plans & monitor implementation
- Intervention -- Only if locals do not act



- If all or part of basin does not meet deadlines
 - Groundwater extraction reporting (7/1/2017)
 - Probationary status
 - Public hearing & 180 day remedy period (6 months)
- After 180 days
 - Interim Plan developed by SWRCB



GSA Formation

1. Identify your basins
2. Identify and work with local agencies
3. Understand your basin and available resources
4. Identify and involve interested stakeholders
5. Evaluate SGMA authorities & roles
6. Evaluate and propose governance model



1. Identify your Basin

- Identify the high & medium priority basins in your region
- Identify basins that may be exempt
- Boundary issues for management
- DWR groundwater information
 - <http://water.ca.gov/groundwater/sgm/index.cfm>



2. Identify & Work with Local Agencies

- Map & understand overlapping jurisdictions
- Identify County-only areas
- Special Act Dist. and Bull 118 basin boundaries
- Identify local agency interests



2. Identify & Work with Local Agencies

Vina

- Butte & Tehama Counties
- City of Chico

West Butte

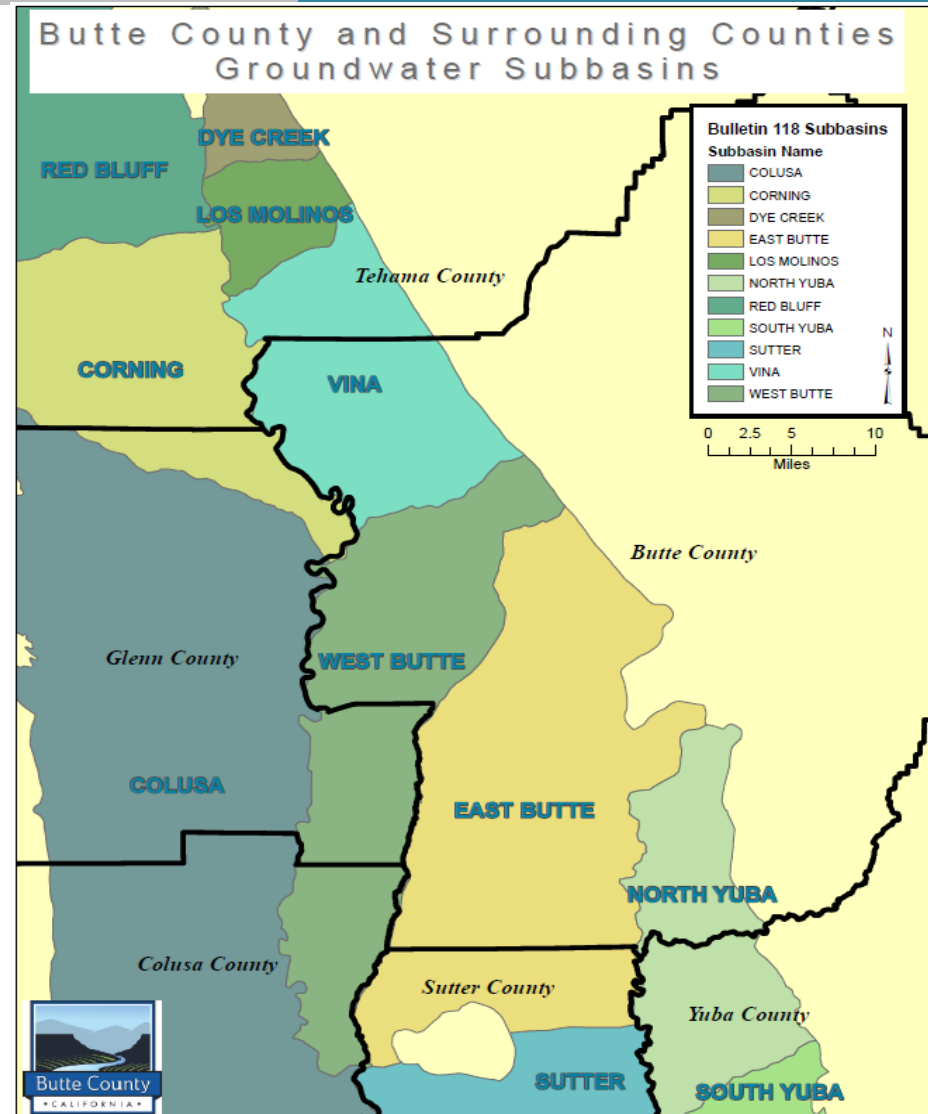
- Butte, Glenn & Colusa Counties
- Water Districts

East Butte

- Butte & Sutter Counties
- Water Districts
- Municipalities

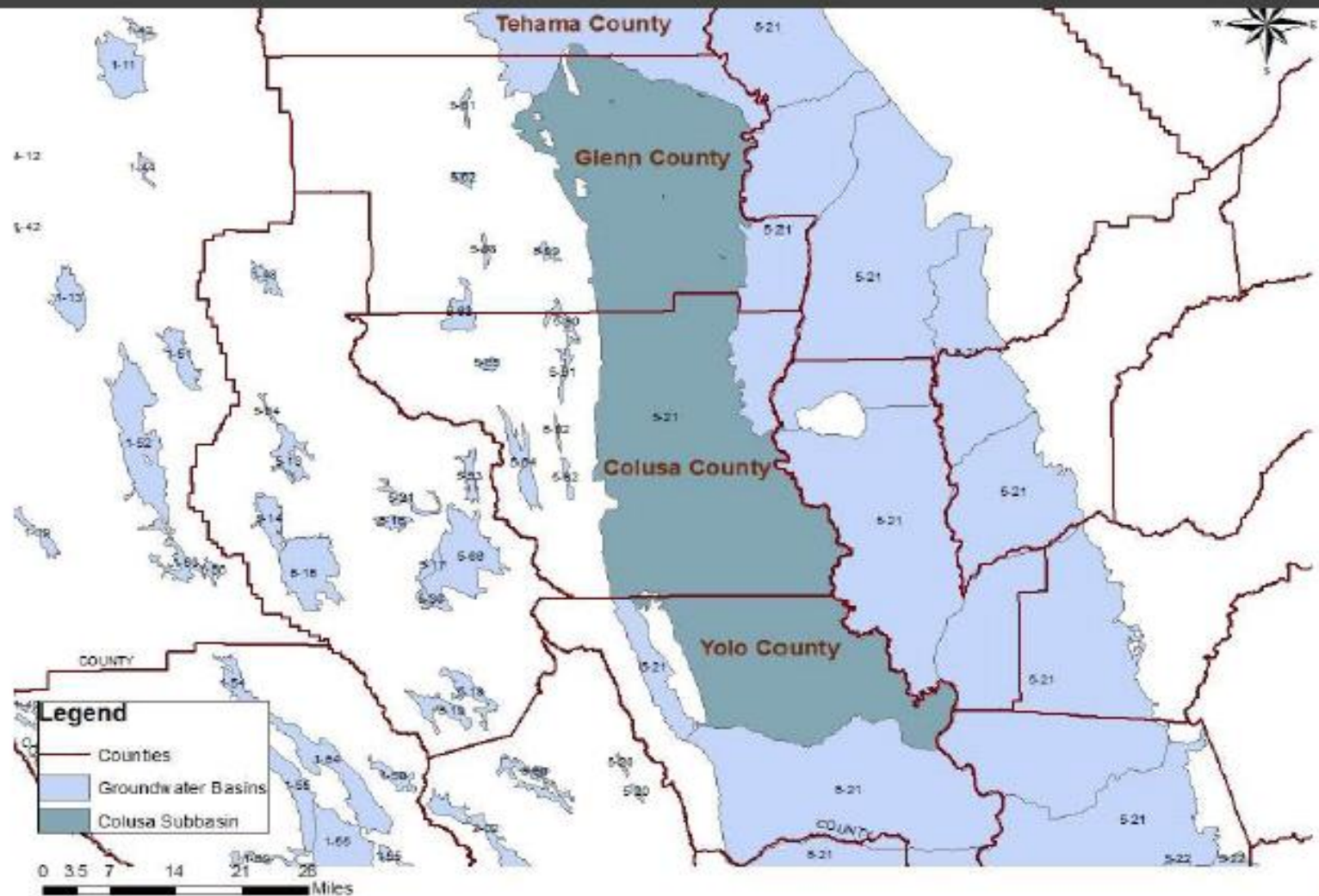
North Yuba

- Butte & Yuba Counties
- Water Districts
- Cities of Oroville & Marysville



SGMA Groundwater Basins

THE COLUSA BASIN

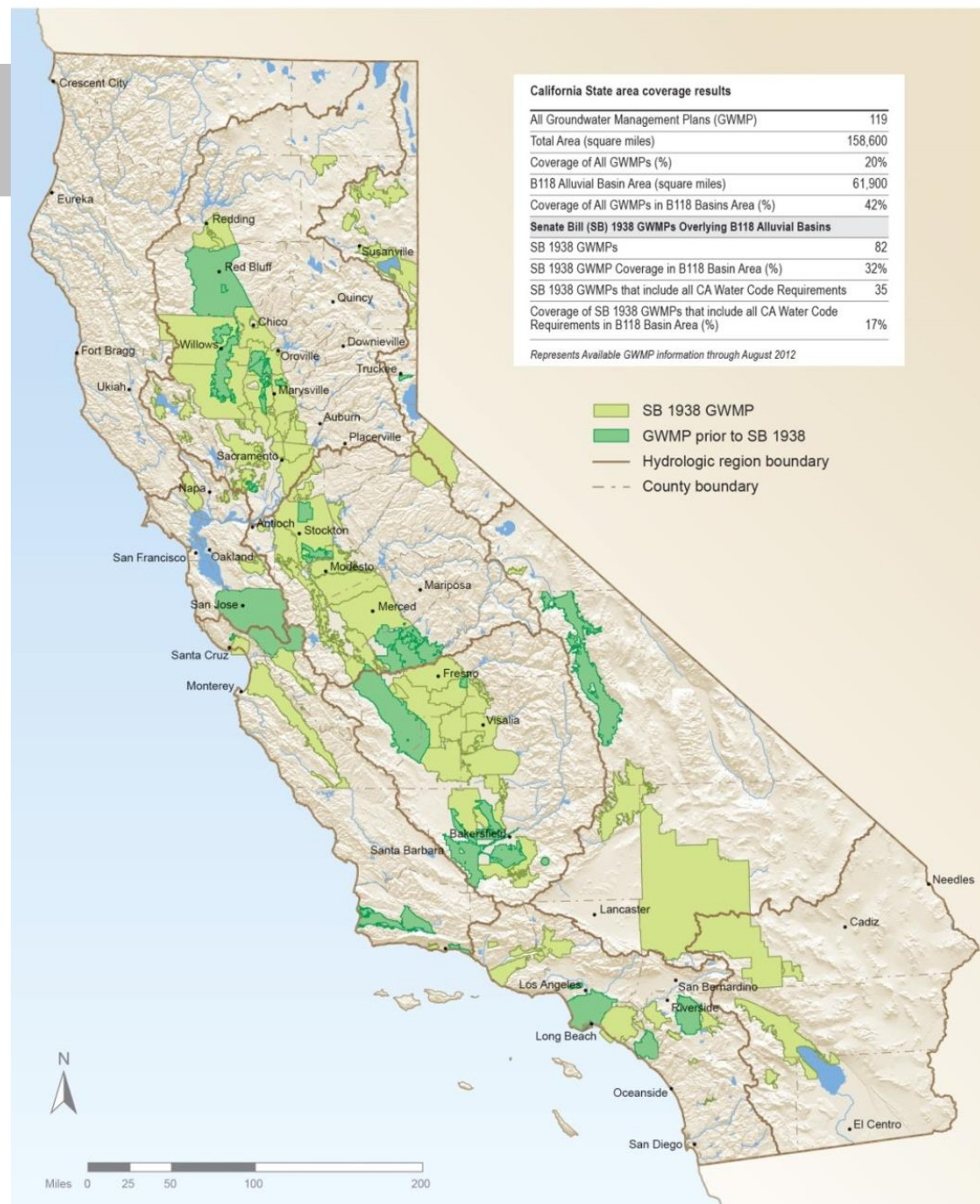


3. Understand the Basin

- Collect and share basin information
- Existing plans, models, monitoring data, etc.
- Identify key hydrogeological issues in the basin
- Should alternative process be pursued?



3. Understand the Basin



4. Engage Interested Parties

- How will interested parties participate?
 - GSA formation
 - GSP development and implementation
- Identify and maintain list of interested parties
- What existing advisory groups can be used?
- What level of engagement?
 - Inform
 - Consult
 - Collaborate



5. Evaluate GSA Responsibilities

- Different GSAs can have different functions
- What role do you want to play?
 - Coordination
 - Public outreach & stakeholder engagement
 - Planning (GSP)
 - Monitoring and Reporting
 - Implementation
 - Enforcement

6. Evaluate Governance Models



Three basic models/approaches:

Single/centralized

Distributed/multiple

Hybrid/Combination

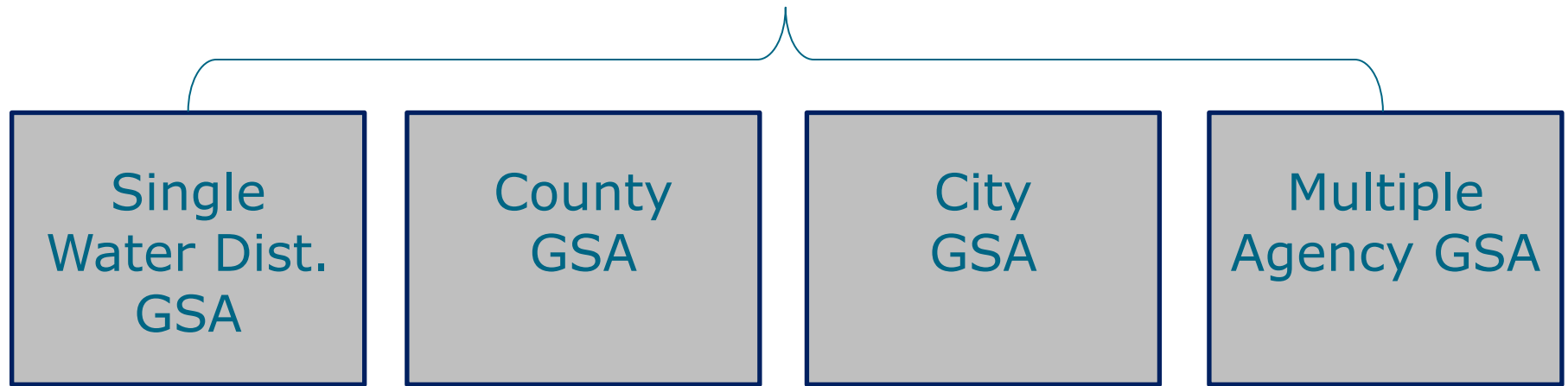
Centralized GSA

Single GSA

- Covers entire basin
- Assumes all authorities and responsibilities
- Members can include all local agencies
- Possible Examples – Special Act Districts or counties that cover the basin

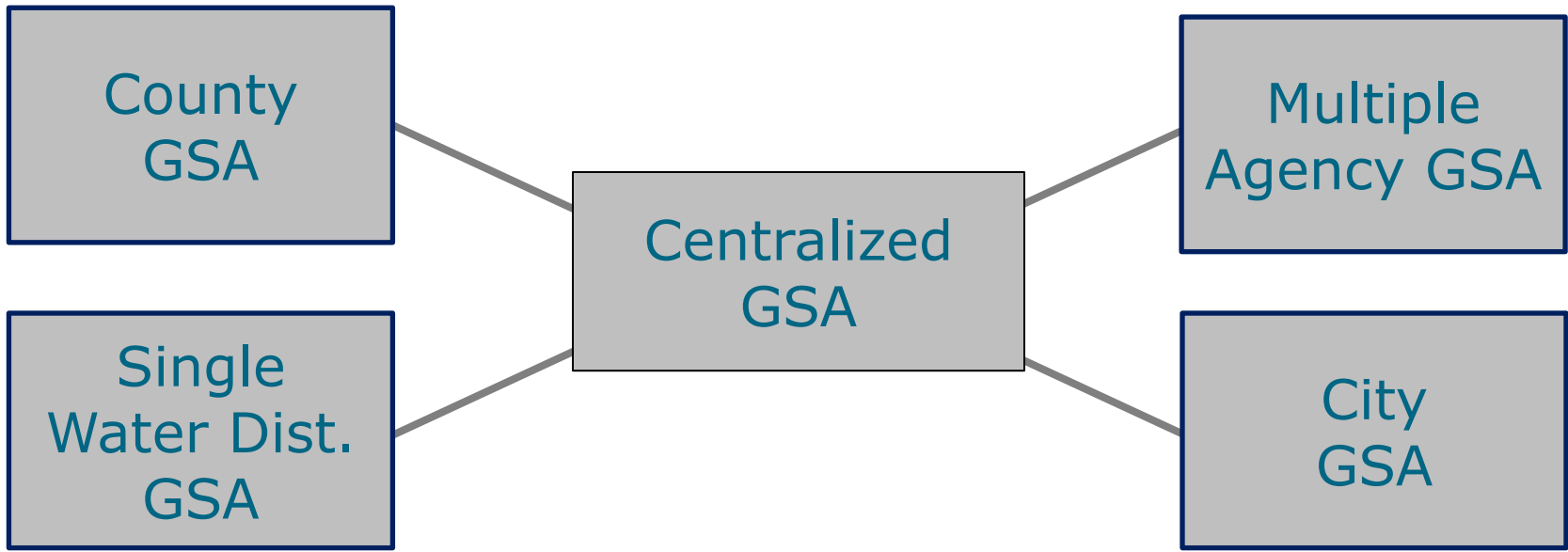
Distributed GSA

Coordination Agreement/MOU



- Each GSA assumes all responsibilities for its service area
- Coordination Agreement required if multiple GSPs
- Possible Examples: Butte County basins, Sacramento region, Stanislaus County basins

Hybrid/Combination GSA model



- Centralized GSA: assumes responsibilities for entire basin
- Multiple GSAs: assume remaining responsibilities for own jurisdictions
- Possible example: Kern Basin

Next Steps

- Track DWR regulations
 - Basin boundaries & GSPs
- GSA formation – before you decide:
 - Discuss options for entire basin
 - Think about your local agency role
 - Engage local stakeholders



Questions/ Contact Information

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An initiative of Resources Legacy Fund