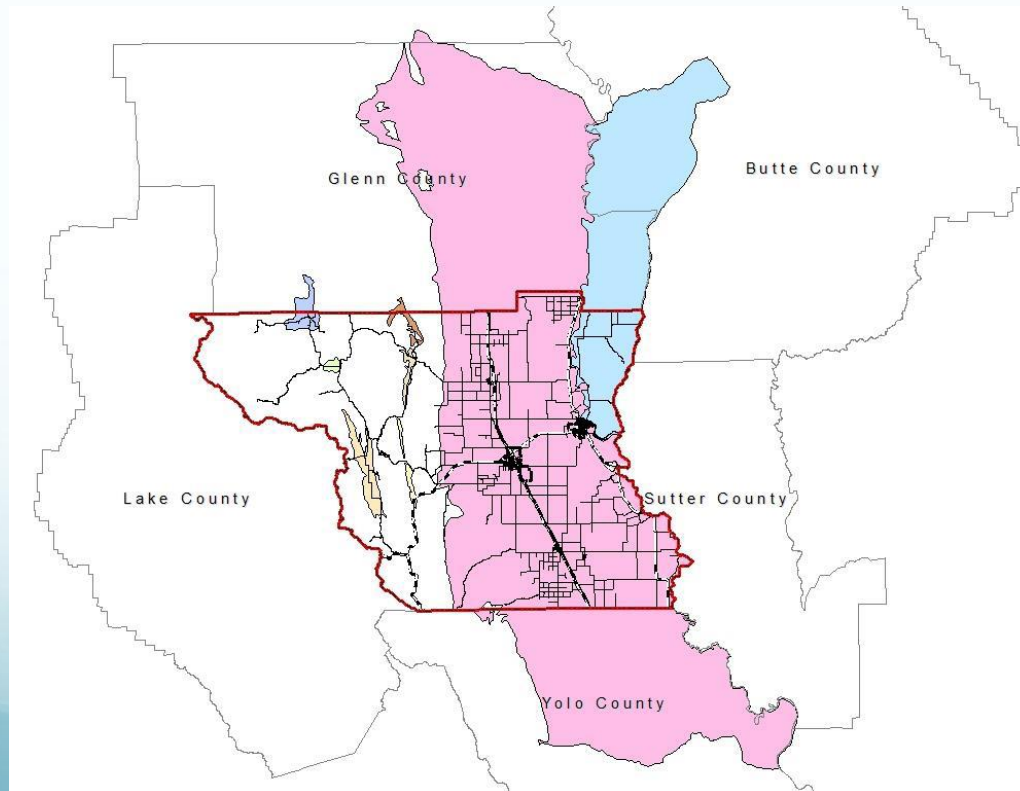


The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act

Key elements of the law, early implementation steps and expected benefits for Colusa County



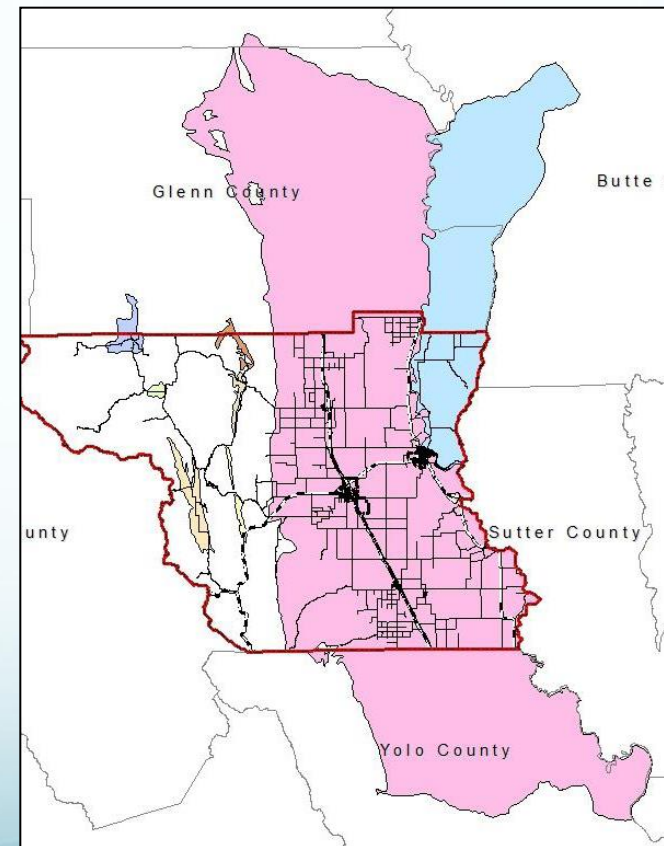
Presentation Outline

- I. SGMA Background
- II. Preparing to Advance SGMA Locally
- III. Recent SGMA Activities
- IV. Early Implementation in Colusa County
- V. Next Steps

SGMA Background

Comprehensive statewide legislation that creates a framework for sustainable groundwater management

- Became law on January 1, 2015
- All medium and high priority basins managed sustainably
- Emphasis on local control with State oversight
- Groundwater Sustainability Agencies
- Groundwater Sustainability Plans



SGMA Background

SGMA affects all citizens of Colusa County

- Offers beneficial opportunities to achieve sustainable groundwater conditions
- Supports agriculture, industry and domestic/public uses
- Requires residents to work together and address our common interest in groundwater resources
- The County supports a collaborative approach to implement SGMA

SGMA Background

How does SGMA define sustainability?

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

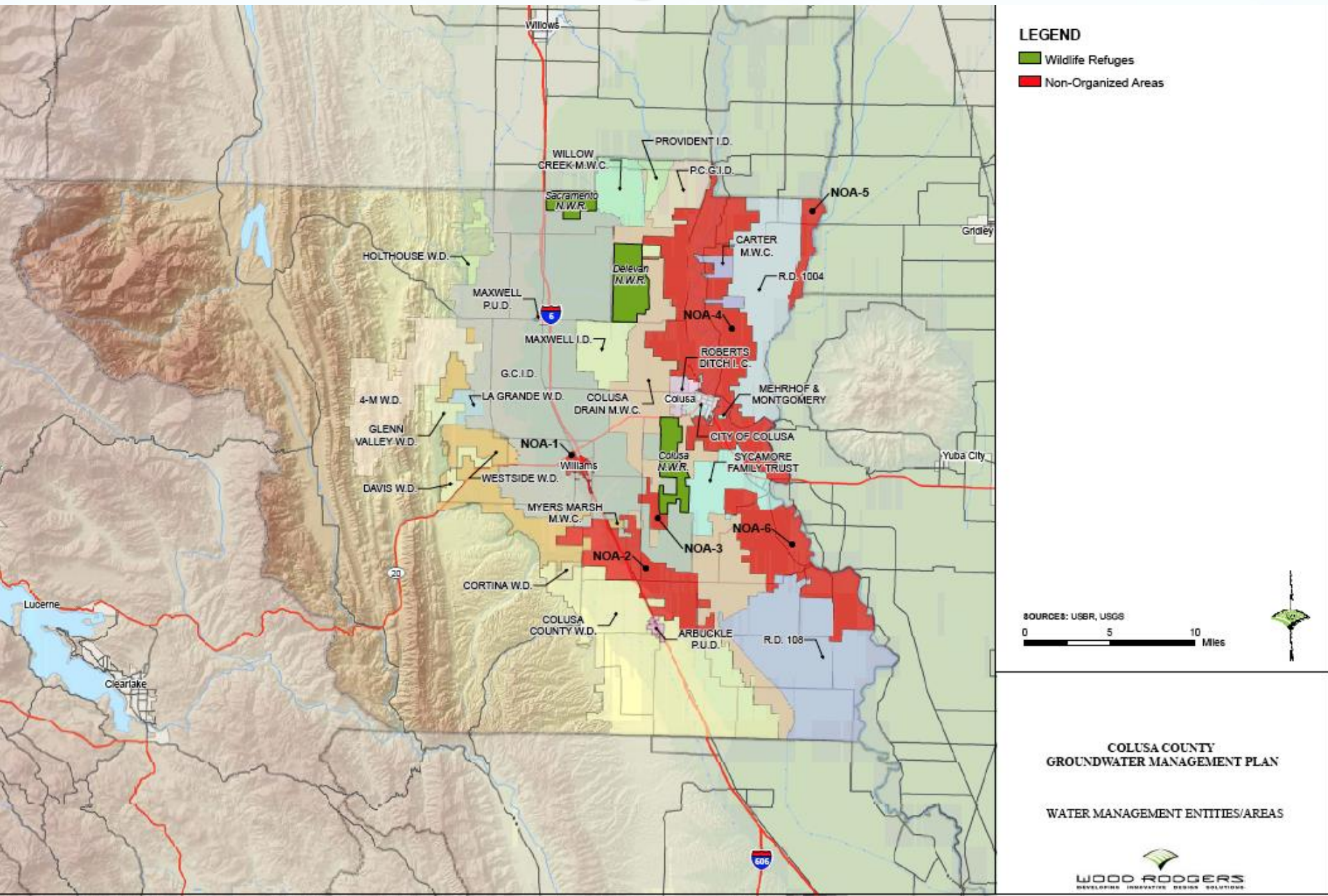
- Chronic lowering of groundwater levels
- Reduction of groundwater storage
- Seawater intrusion
- Degraded water quality
- Land subsidence
- Depletions of interconnected surface waters

SGMA Background

Formation of Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs)

- SGMA requires formation of GSAs to implement SGMA at the local level
- Public agencies with land or water use authority are eligible to become GSAs
 - Counties, cities, water agencies, irrigation districts, PUDs
 - GSA may include one or more local public agencies
- May include a single GSA or multiple GSAs per basin
 - Multiple GSAs must coordinate planning efforts

Colusa Water Management Entities/Areas



SGMA Background

GSA Roles and Responsibilities

At their discretion, GSAs may...

- Adopt rules, regulations and ordinances
- Conduct groundwater studies / investigations
- Register and monitor wells
- Require reports of groundwater extraction
- Implement capital projects to meet goals
- Assess fees to cover management costs

SGMA Background

GSA Roles and Responsibilities

Interested parties must be included in SGMA planning:

- All Groundwater Users
- Holders of Overlying Rights (agriculture and domestic)
- Municipal Well Operators and Public Water Systems
- Tribes
- County
- Planning Departments / Land Use
- Local Landowners
- Disadvantaged Communities
- Business
- Federal Government
- Environmental Uses
- Surface Water Users (*if connection between surface and ground water*)

SGMA Background

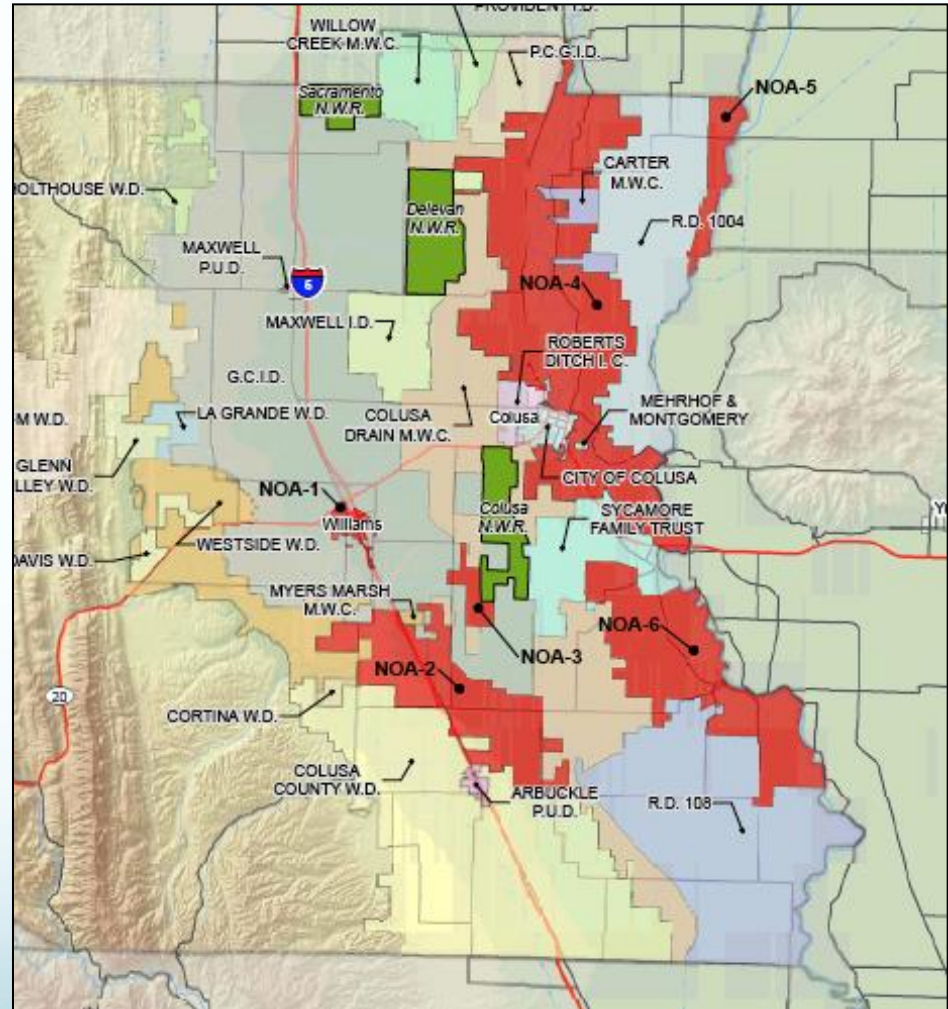
How are domestic well owners affected by SGMA?

- Referred to in SGMA as “de minimis” users IF...
 - Use 2 acre-feet per year or less for domestic purposes
- De minimis users are subject to SGMA, depending on local needs
 - GSAs will decide how de minimis users are addressed
 - GSAs can decide to exclude or include
 - GSAs can decide on fees but *cannot* require metering
 - May be subject to reporting / fees to State if intervention occurs
- Domestic wells can also be regulated by authorities (counties, water districts, etc.) outside scope of SGMA

SGMA Background

“White Areas”

- County is presumed to be the GSA over areas that are not covered by another GSA-eligible agency
- If the County opts out, the State will manage those areas



SGMA Background

Development of Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs)

- GSAs are responsible to develop GSPs
- Every high and medium priority groundwater basin must be covered by a GSP or GSPs
- Option of a single GSP covering the entire basin, or a combination of GSPs, developed by multiple GSAs, covering the entire basin
- Multiple GSPs must coordinate, utilize the same data / methodologies, and have a coordination agreement

SGMA Background

Key Implementation Milestones

- January 1, 2016 – Boundary redesignation and SB 13
- June 1, 2016 – GSP regulations due from DWR
- June 30, 2017 – GSAs must be formed
- July 1, 2017 – Counties affirm GSA status
- January 31, 2020 – GSPs complete for critically over-drafted basins
- January 31, 2022 – All other GSPs complete

SGMA Background

DWR and State Water Board Roles

- DWR:
 - Develop Basin Boundary and GSP regulations
 - Review GSPs, decide on adequacy, implementation
- State Water Board:
 - Implement State intervention
 - Reporting
 - Assess fees
 - Designate Probationary Basins
 - Develop Interim Plans, implement those Plans

SGMA Background

State Water Board Intervention

In all triggering events, intervention is the result of failure by locals to create a GSA(s) and/or adopt and implement a GSP.

- Data
 - Same data needed by a GSA, but now managed by State
 - Higher frequency (monthly minimum reporting)
- Fees
 - Fees associated with reporting
 - Board recovers cost for all intervention-related activities (monitoring plans, well construction, facilitation, technical studies, models)
- Interim plans
 - Pumping restrictions are most straight-forward
 - State developed physical solutions are unlikely

**Initial comments and/or
questions**

Preparing to Advance SGMA Locally

What has the County done to advance SGMA locally?

- Dedicated staff resources
- Fostered early communication with GSA filers, many of whom are here tonight to join the conversation
- Maintained communication with surrounding counties
- Received grant for impartial facilitation services from the Center for Collaborative Policy
- Initiated a local county-wide groundwater assessment
- Pursued DWR grant to support local planning efforts through a groundwater monitoring and data management program
- Committed to sharing resources with local partners

Recent SGMA Activities

GSA Notifications in Colusa County

- Provident Irrigation District and Princeton-Codora-Glenn Irrigation District
- Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District
- Colusa County Water District
- Reclamation District 1004
- Reclamation District 108
- County of Colusa



Recent SGMA Activities

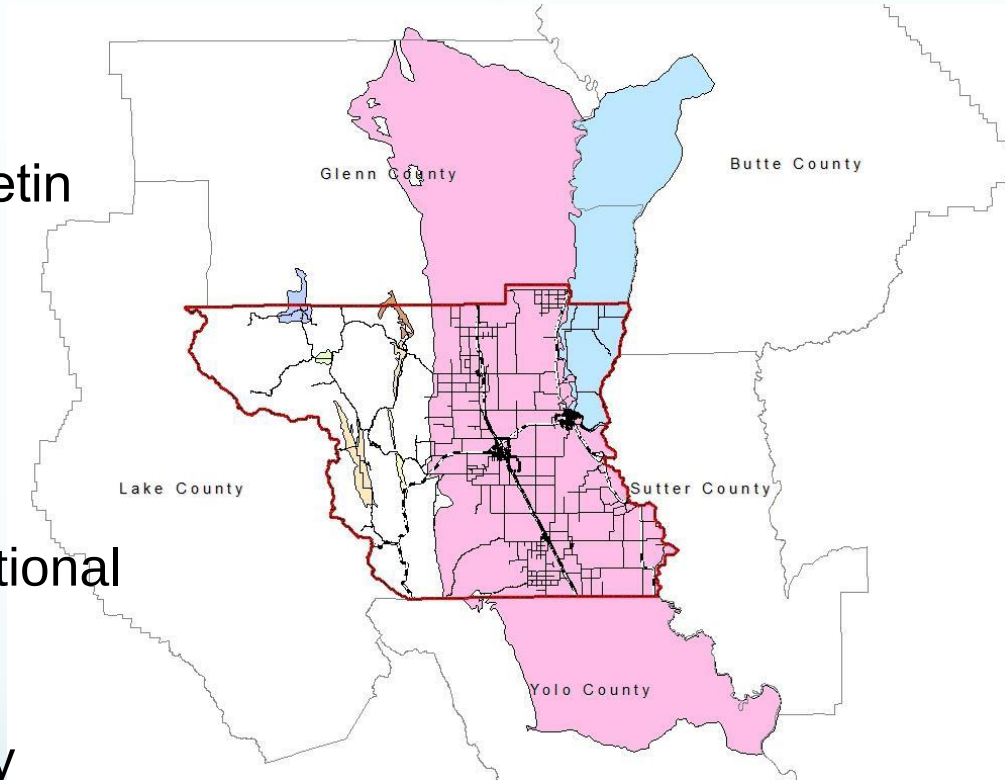
SB 13 Amendment – Interpreted by DWR as retroactive

- Removed the Notice of Intent to be a GSA
- Allows a mutual water company to be part of a GSA through a legal agreement
- Prohibits overlap of service area boundaries
- Prohibits local agencies from imposing fees or reg. requirements on entities outside their boundaries
- Requires DWR to post all “complete” notices within 15 days of receipt

Recent SGMA Activities

Basin Boundary Modifications

- Existing groundwater basins or subbasins defined in DWR's Bulletin 118
- Local agencies may request boundary modifications
- May include scientific or jurisdictional modifications
- Starting January 1, 2016: 90 day window for local agencies to submit requests for DWR consideration



Recent SGMA Activities

Groundwater Sustainability Plan Regulations

- By June 1, 2016 DWR shall adopt regulations for:
 - Evaluating GSPs
 - Implementing GSPs
 - Coordination agreements
- The regulations shall identify:
 - Required GSP components and additional elements
 - Coordination of multiple GSPs in a basin
 - Additional information that assists GSAs

Proposed Process In Colusa County

The County received Department of Water Resources grant funding for facilitation services from the Center For Collaborative Policy (CCP).

- *Background preparation*
- *Outreach and education*
- *GSA Governance development*

Proposed Process in Colusa County

Background Preparation

- Review background materials
- Conduct initial interviews with eligible GSA agencies
- Prepare 90-Day Plan
- Prepare initial facilitation strategy



Proposed Process in Colusa County

Outreach and Education

- Prepare education and outreach materials
- Coordinate and facilitate local outreach and education meetings for agencies and private well owners
- Facilitate collaboration so all interested parties can participate and work together towards sustainability

Proposed Process in Colusa County

GSA Governance

- Coordinate and facilitate public meetings about governance
- Coordinate and facilitate meetings of several GSA eligible agencies
- Conduct meetings with individual GSA eligible agencies
- Support representation of domestic well owner interests

Panel Discussion with Eligible GSAs

Summary of Steps Towards Sustainability

Step 1

- Local agencies form GSAs by June, 2017

Step 2

- Local agencies in medium and high priority basins adopt GSPs by January, 2022 (faster if in critical overdraft)

Step 3

- Local agencies have 20 years to demonstrate they are meeting measurable goals and achieving sustainability

Key Considerations as We Move Forward

The County believes a partnered approach is best

- We all have a vested interest in our groundwater
- GSA formation, GSP preparation, and and long-term implementation will create costs for many users
- Pooling resources will improve efficiencies and capitalize skills and strengths of various partners

Panel Questions / Topics

- Your vision of SGMA implementation to your District members and all groundwater users in the County?
- Steps you've taken so far to form a GSA and to implement SGMA?
- What you want to be sure your District achieves and avoids as you, the other organizations, and the County form GSAs?
- Thoughts you have about impacts to private well owners?

Next Steps

So where do we go from here?

- Convene Governance Workgroup
- Hold additional public meetings
- Continued coordination with adjacent subbasins

Discussion

**Your comments, questions
and input**