Inyo-Mono County
Sustainable Groundwater Management Act
California Department of Water Resources Facilitation Services
Situation Assessment
What is SGMA?

The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) is a 2014 California law that requires groundwater to be sustainably managed over a long period. This means the amount of groundwater that can be taken every year cannot, overtime, create lower groundwater levels and/or:

- Harm water quality
- Deplete creeks, streams and rivers (or other connected water)
- Create land subsidence
- Cause seawater to seep in
- Cause other significant and adverse impacts
What is a GSA?

• One or more local governmental agencies that formally become a GSA and implement SGMA.

• Assess their groundwater and adopt locally-based sustainable management plans.

• Strive to create drought resiliency and improve coordination between land use and groundwater planning.

• Have water supply, water management or land management authority and can create rules and regulations and impose fees to achieve sustainability goals.
What is a GSP?

In the places where the State has identified a medium or high-priority for sustainable management, SGMA requires that a local Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) prepare a Groundwater Sustainability Plan(s). These Plans describe the basin setting and set the criteria that will, within 20 years, deliver sustainable groundwater management without preventing an adjacent basin to implement its Plan or achieve its goals.
Who will implement SGMA?

Local Role

• Sustainable management of groundwater supplies is done by local authorities, through the formation of local groundwater sustainability agencies (GSAs).

• The act provides substantial time – 20 years – for GSAs to implement plans and achieve long-term groundwater sustainability.

State Role

• The State developed the rules and regulations that guide development of GSA’s and sustainability plans. Otherwise there is a limited role for state intervention only if necessary to protect the resource.

• The State is committed to the success of local agencies and is providing technical assistance to local agencies.
SGMA Stakeholder Involvement

• Groundwater users help to plan for and preserve shared natural resource.

• SGMA requires a list of interested parties and consideration of their interests in the GSA and the agency’s groundwater sustainability plan (GSP).

• Desires to understand and utilize groundwater user ideas before the development of the GSA and GSP.
Who is eligible?

*Four minimum eligibility requirements:*

- Commitment to work collaboratively with others to meet the requirements of the SGMA
- Identify a clear and defined need for professional facilitation support services
- Commitment to meet regularly and work diligently toward clear, defined goals.
- Commit to providing logistical and administrative support
Neutral Third Party Facilitators

- University

Statewide Team of Experienced Mediators and Facilitators

Collaboration with the Research Community

- Private Sector and Non-Profit
Services Offered

• Strategic planning
• Stakeholder identification and outreach
• Stakeholder assessment
• Stakeholder liaison and mediation
• Meeting facilitation
• Governance assessment
• Public outreach
Identify

- Problems and opportunities
- Decisions to be made
- Key issues requiring stakeholder concurrence
- Preferred communication approaches
- Preferred planning approaches and solutions

Who: People that need to be engaged/informed and to what extent

What: Objectives and issues important to participants

Where: Place based, including virtual locations (on-line support)

When: Timing

Why: Validation that this particular audience, objectives and approach will support successful GSA formation

How: Methods
Stakeholder Assessment

- June – August 2016,
- Background Research
- Interviews, 49 People, Mini Workshop
- Representative Sample of the Groundwater Basin’s key stakeholder groups
- Coordinated with Inyo County Water Department
- Pre-work
- Special Tribal Outreach
- Direct interest and request for follow-up from Board of Supervisors
Questions

• Overarching perspectives from each key stakeholder on GSA governance; subbasin management and associated SGMA compliance

• Preferred methods to achieve groundwater sustainability consistent with SGMA requirements

• The level of agreement/conflict around groundwater governance across the range of stakeholder perspectives

• Experience with facilitated processes and the goals for facilitation support

• Potential configurations of governance and formations of GSAs and GSP development
History and Intent
**Inyo-Mono Maps**

- **Groundwater basin**
- **Tri Valley Groundwater Management District**
- **Los Angeles land in Inyo Co.**

---

**Population**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Population estimates, July 1, 2015, (V2015)</td>
<td>18,260</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population estimates base, April 1, 2010, (V2015)</td>
<td>18,546</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population, percent change - April 1, 2010 (estimates base) to July 1, 2015 (V2015)</td>
<td>-1.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Boundary Adjustment

- Provides the County(s) perspectives on the groundwater basin and why the boundary should be adjusted
- Included significant outreach and identified likely interested parties as related to GSA formation and GSP Development
Source & Trends

- Surface & Groundwater
- Water Aware Community
- Extremely complex system and historic disputes
- Observed impacts associated with Drought and LADWP Operations
Historic Tensions

• Surface and Groundwater
• Status as a GSA??
• Need for participation – collaboration related to the settlement agreement
Owens Lake Bed

- Salt flat the size of San Francisco
- Air Quality Concerns – the largest single source of dust pollution in the nation [NPR]
- Groundwater Concerns
- Jurisdictional Concerns
Tribal Concerns

• Current Water Context
• Cultural Lands
• Related On-Going Disputes (Owens Lake)
• Inyo County
• Historic Injustice
Lone Pine

• THE Lone Pine is Dead
Manzanar
Historic Orchards

- 1905 land conversion by Chaffey family
- 3000 acres
- 1915 thriving orchards – peak 1920-22
- 1927 LADWP ownership
- Selection as internment site
Fish Slough

- Federally Designated Area of Critical Environmental Concern
Fish Slough
Crystal Geyser Expansion

- Recent Expansion
- Employment

Public Meeting - March 2nd at 5:30 pm
There is a public meeting scheduled regarding the Crystal Geyser Roxane Water Quality Investigation at the Olancha Fire Station. All are welcome. Questions should be submitted in writing by February 23rd.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2015/05/20/owens-valley-water_n_7345100.html
Decisions to Be Made

• How Many GSAs
• How Many GSPs
• What is the Composition of the GSA(s)
• How will non-GSA eligible Stakeholders be represented
How Many GSAs?

• General Interest in one or two with JPA or MOU types of Agreements
Inyo County & Mono County
City of Bishop

- Interest in Pursuing a GSA with Inyo County and preparing one GSP
- Has Resources (limited) to Assist
Tri-Valley Groundwater Management District

- Designated under SGMA as the Presumptive GSA for its area

Inyo and Mono County Tribes

- Interest and capacity
- Some tribes have resources to assist
- Indian Water Commission
CSDs & LADWP
Ag Commissioner

Inyo and Mono Counties Agricultural Commissioner's Office

The mission of the Inyo and Mono Counties Agricultural Commissioner's Office is to promote and protect the agricultural industry of the Counties, protect the environment, and to ensure the health and safety of all of its citizens. The department is also responsible for fostering confidence and equity in the marketplace.

The following are the main program areas:

HUMAN SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

We protect the health and safety of all Inyo/Mono residents, its agricultural industries and its environment with a series of comprehensive regulatory programs designed to prevent the introduction of exotic pests and to ensure the safe use of pesticides. The five programs that exist to achieve these goals include:

- Pest Exclusion
- Pest Detection
- Pest Eradication
- Pest Management
- Pesticide Enforcement

CONSUMER PROTECTION AND PRODUCT QUALITY

NEWS:

Tri-County Fair - September 1-4

Come see our display in the Charles Brown Auditorium!

California farm production declines in 2015 – several factors cited

CDC issues updated map of Zika transmitting mosquito occurrence

*Our findings underscore the need for systematic surveillance of Ae. aegypti and Ae. albopictus in the United States and delineate areas with risk for the
Other Agencies

State
- Lands Commission
- Sierra Nevada Conservancy
- Fish and Wildlife

Federal
- National Park Service
- BLM
- Forest Service

Collaborative Efforts
- IRWM
How Would a GSA be Governed

- Multiple Options
Delegate Voting to Non-Public Agencies

GSA members may provide or delegate voting power to representatives from groups who are not local public agencies. JPAs are drafted and signed by local cities and counties.

Cities and counties delegate governing board seats to irrigation districts, private water purveyors and investor owned utilities and various other representatives such as an “agricultural interest” representative and a “conservation landowners” representative etc. Additionally, the JPA can require non-member governing board representatives to contribute funding to the agency. For an Owens Valley GSA, this model may be applicable to tribal, business, LADWP, or environmental representation on the GSA Board.
# Associate Membership Arrangement

GSAs may also involve non-local public agencies without delegating member’s voting powers by opting for an associate membership arrangement. Under this option, a GSA’s formation agreement could designate specific representatives, or provide the governing board the authority to designate associate representatives. For example, in the recently-formed Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority, of which Inyo County is a member, the US Navy and US Bureau of Land Management are participating as non-voting associate members. In Owens Valley, associate membership status may be desirable for various agencies such as US Bureau of Land Management, US Forest Service, LADWP, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, or California State Lands Commission.
Form a New Public Agency

• Individuals that do not have public agency status may decide they would like to form a public agency in order to form or participate in a GSA. *Given the complexities associated with forming new local public agencies, this is probably not a practical means for Owens Valley individuals and entities to participate in the GSA process.*
Lastly, parties could also seek to establish a legal agreement with a GSA governing board member such as a county, with voting power in a GSA overlying their basin. Under this agreement, parties could stipulate that the governing board member may vote only after receiving the recommendation of the non-public agency that is a party to the agreement.
Advisory Committee

- GSAs can form advisory committees, where stakeholders may participate in the preparation and administration of a GSP through committees set up for that purpose.
GSPs – Just One / Or Two Coordinated
## Risk Factors

- Assess current risk
- Design collaboration strategies to minimize risk

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RISK CATEGORY</th>
<th>Outreach RISK FACTORS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Technical, quality, or performance</td>
<td>- Realistic performance goals, scope and objectives</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Management Area Issues
Next Steps -

• Scopes of Work
Questions

For More information
Contact Lisa Beutler
lisa.beutler@mwhglobal.com
Background Info - Who We Talked To

Brian Adkins
Jessee Archer
Alan Bacock
Laura Beardsley
Peter Bennascon
Tina Braithwaite
Nick Buckmaster
Scott Burns
Elizabeth Calderon
Brent Calloway
Heidi Calvert
Nick Criss
Mark Drew
Marion Dunn
Alisa Ellsworth
Jamie Garrett
David Grah
Pam Griggs
Bob Harrington
Mervin Hess
Paul Hewitt
Auron Johnson
Bernadette Johnson
Saeed Jorat
Randi Jorgensen
Melo Joseph
Grace Kato
Bob Kingman
Honovaa Lewis
Greg Loveland
Sally Manning
Rosaan Marrujo
Nancy Masters
Carol Ann Mitchell
Steve Parmnter
Mike Prather
Keith Rainville
Nate Reade
Teri Red Owl
Mary Roper
Ryan Smith
Dana Stroud
Fred Stump
Wendy Sugimura
Earl Wilson
Jim Yannotta
April Zrelak
Marion Dunn