



Inyo-Mono County

Sustainable Groundwater

Management Act

California Department of Water Resources
Facilitation Services

Situation Assessment

Inyo County Board of Supervisors
Lisa Beutler, MWH (now Part of Stantec)

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.

Facilitation Services

California Department of Water Resources
Technical Support



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

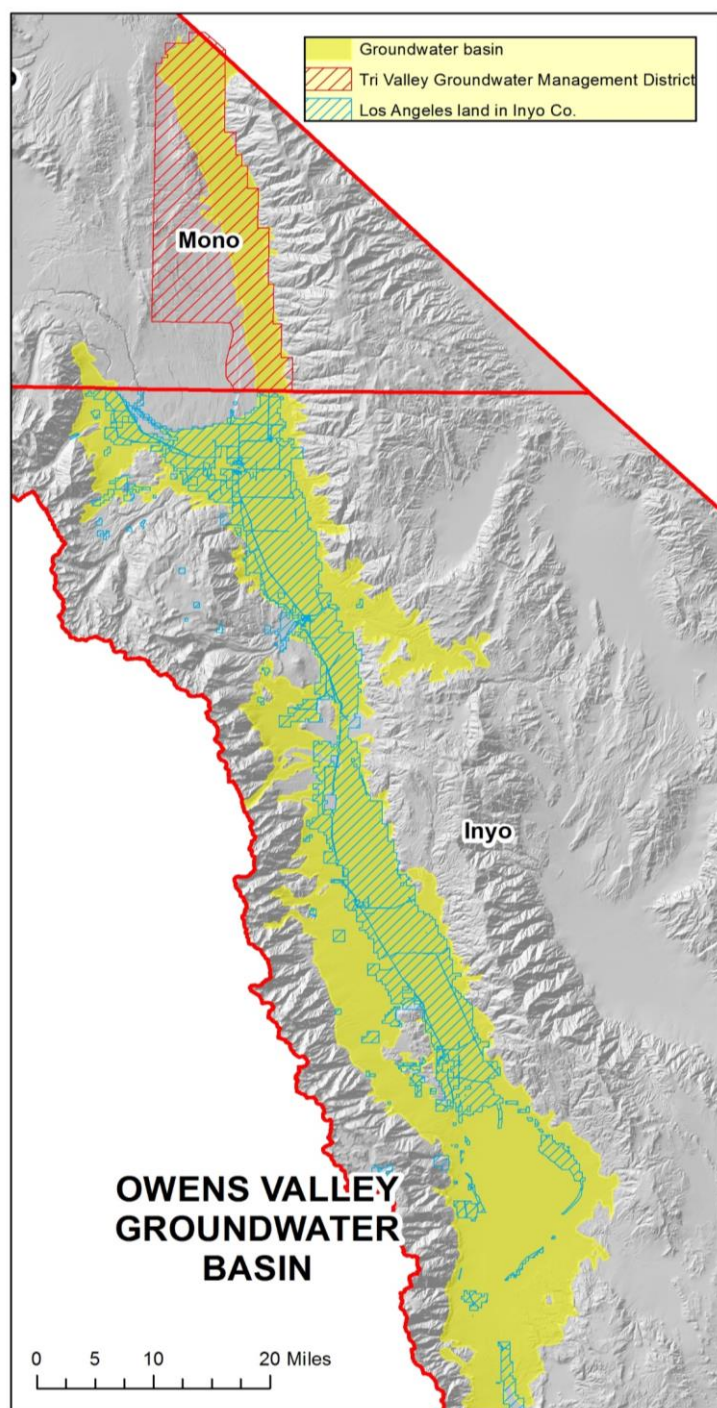
- Overarching perspectives from each key stakeholder on GSA governance; subbasin management and associated SGMA compliance
- Preferred methods to achieve groundwater sustainability consistent with SGMA requirements
- The level of agreement/conflict around groundwater governance across the range of stakeholder perspectives
- Experience with facilitated processes and the goals for facilitation support
- Potential configurations of governance and formations of GSAs and GSP development



Results

*Army of Occupation
L. H. F. 1918*

History and Intent



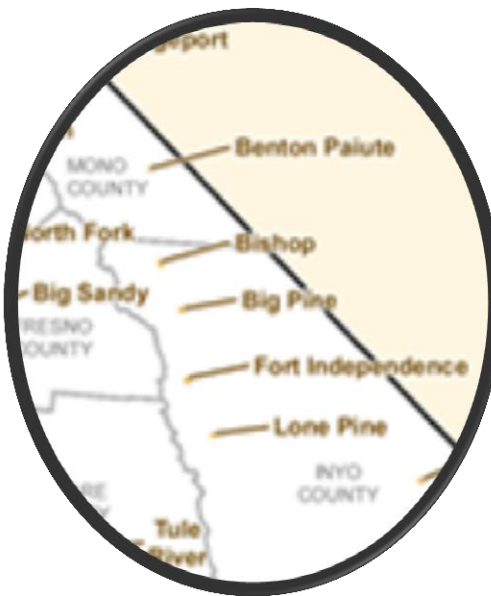
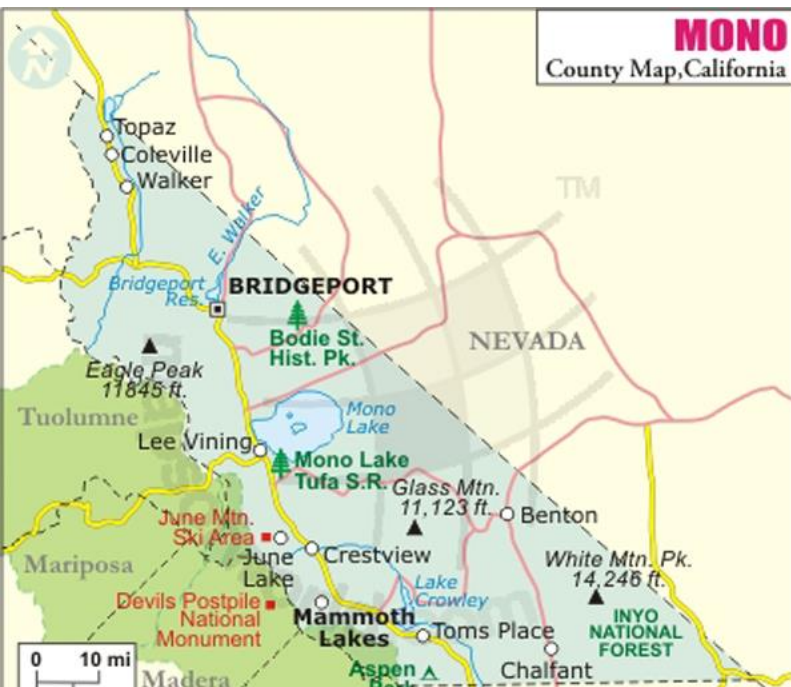
Inyo-Mono Maps



PEOPLE


Population

i Population estimates, July 1, 2015, (V2015)	18,260
i Population estimates base, April 1, 2010, (V2015)	18,546
i Population, percent change - April 1, 2010 (estimates base) to July 1, 2015, (V2015)	-1.5%



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

	AGENDA REQUEST FORM BOARD OF SUPERVISORS COUNTY OF INYO	<small>For Clerk's Use Only AGENDA NUMBER</small>
	<input type="checkbox"/> Consent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Departmental <input type="checkbox"/> Correspondence Action <input type="checkbox"/> Public Hearing <input type="checkbox"/> Scheduled Time for <input type="checkbox"/> Closed Session <input type="checkbox"/> Informational	
FROM: Water Department		
FOR THE BOARD MEETING OF: August 18, 2015		
SUBJECT: Briefing on Department of Water Resources Draft Groundwater Basin Boundary Regulations		
<u>DEPARTMENTAL RECOMMENDATION:</u>		
<p>The Water Department requests your Board receive a briefing on the State's recently issued Draft Groundwater Basin Boundary Regulations, and provide direction to staff concerning potential boundary adjustments to the Owens Valley Groundwater Basin.</p>		
<u>SUMMARY DISCUSSION:</u>		
<p>The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) mandates that medium and high priority groundwater basins throughout the State be managed by Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) in a basin-wide fashion. Entities eligible to act as a GSA are local public agencies with water supply, water management, or land use responsibilities with a groundwater basin. GSAs for each medium and high priority basin must be established before June 30, 2017. GSAs are responsible for developing and implementing Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs) by June 31, 2020 in basins identified as subject to critical conditions of overdraft, and by January 31, 2022 in all other medium and high priority basins. Owens Valley is a medium priority basin that is not subject to conditions of critical overdraft. The SGMA provides a number of institutional arrangements by which local agencies can form GSAs, with the goal that each medium and high priority basin will be entirely covered by a GSP or multiple GSPs implemented by a GSA or multiple GSAs. Where no other eligible local entity exists, SGMA places responsibility for establishing GSAs and GSPs on counties. If local entities do not form and implement GSAs and/or GSPs, SGMA requires that the State Water Resources Control Board step in and impose a GSP at the expense of eligible local entities. Since groundwater basins are the targeted management unit, the definition of groundwater basin boundaries affects how GSAs and GSPs will be formed and how basins are prioritized. Of particular importance to counties is the correspondence between groundwater basin boundaries and county boundaries.</p> <p>Groundwater basin boundaries are established based on the extent of alluvial aquifers, and are published in the Department of Water Resources (DWR) Bulletin 118. The SGMA provides that local entities may seek modifications to groundwater basin boundaries. By January 1, 2016, SGMA requires that DWR adopt regulations for how local agencies may submit requests to DWR to revise basin boundaries. To work toward meeting this requirement, DWR released draft regulations on July 17 and are accepting comments on them through September 4. Later in the fall, the regulations will be presented to the California Water Commission and the Office of Administrative Law for adoption. DWR plans to accept proposals for boundary revisions for ninety days following January 1, 2016. In 2017, DWR will publish an interim update to Bulletin 118 with any boundary revisions approved by DWR and updated basin priorities based on the revised boundaries.</p> <p>Inyo County contains two medium priority groundwater basins, Owens Valley and Indian Wells Valley. Owens Valley Groundwater Basin is shared by Inyo and Mono Counties. Water Department staff and Mono County staff have discussed the desirability of subdividing the Owens Valley basin into two parts at or near</p>		

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

You are here: [Home](#) > [Blog](#) > [Gov](#) > Owens Valley, LA people protest LADWP practices

Owens Valley, LA people protest LADWP practices

by News Staff on November 6, 2013 in Gov



Protestors outside LADWP headquarters in Los Angeles.
Photo by Jane McDonald

For immediate release:

Owens Valley Residents Mourn 100 years of Colonial Rule and Resource Exploitation

Approximately 25 residents of the Owens Valley stood in protest, leafletting outside DWP Headquarters in Los Angeles Tuesday as Mayor Garcetti and DWP conducted a re-enactment of the events which took place 100 years before.

Present were members of the Big Pine, Bishop, and Lone Pine Paiute Shoshone Tribes, the Owens Valley Committee (OVC), and several Los Angelenos who proudly stood

with us in opposition to their city government.

Explaining that “While We Can’t Change the Past, We want to Create a Better Future,” our leaflet outlined a four point plan for the next 100 years: Limiting annual pumping to 70,000 acre feet a year, restoring irrigation flow to Owens Valley Ranchers as intended by the Water Agreement, Bringing a third party into Water Agreement Management to break the gridlock, and reducing dependence on water and power from outside Los Angeles.

Our leaflet was well received by 700 attendees of the event, many of whom expressed sadness and concern over their city’s impact on our valley.

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

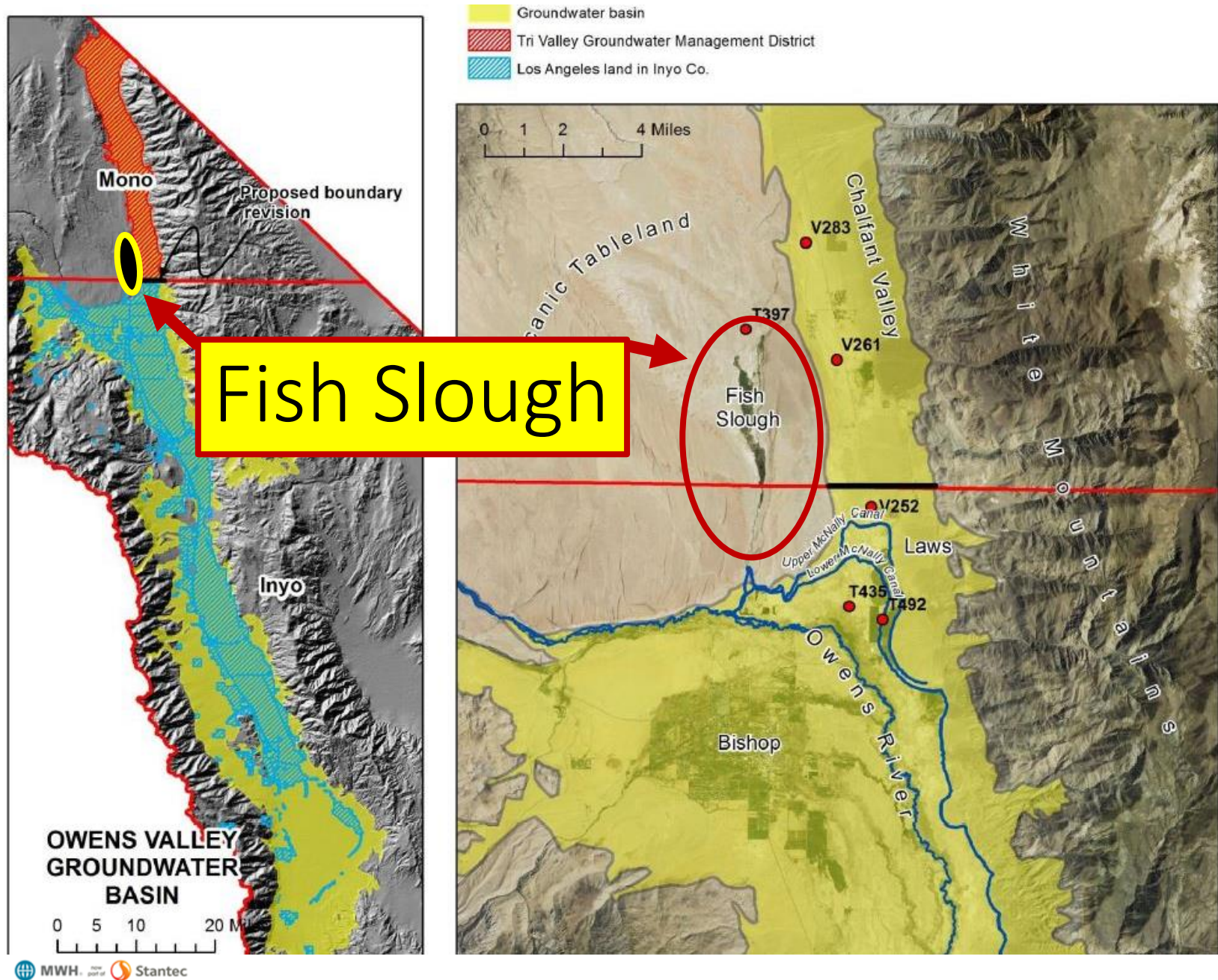
- 1905 land conversion by Chaffey family
- 3000 acres
- 1915 thriving orchards – peak 1920-22
- 1927 LADWP ownership
- Selection as internment site

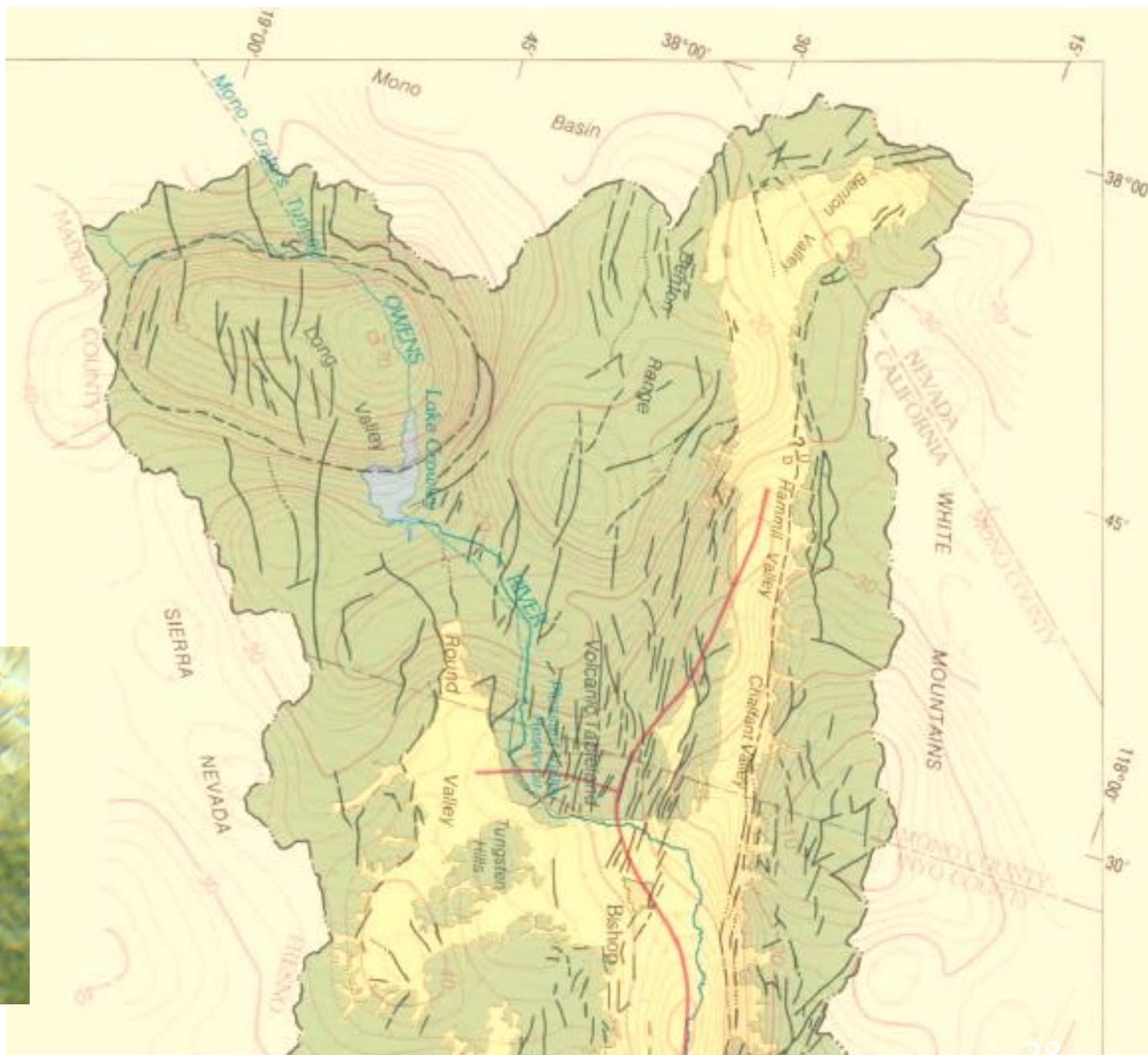


Fish Slough



- **Federally Designated Area of Critical Environmental Concern**





Crystal Geyser Expansion

- Recent Expansion
- Employment

- http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2015/05/20/owens-valley-water_n_7345100.html



Public Meeting - March 2nd at 5:30 pm

There is a public meeting scheduled regarding the Crystal Geyser Roxane Water Quality Investigation at the Olancho Fire Station. All are welcome. Questions should be submitted in writing by February 23rd

Decisions to Be Made

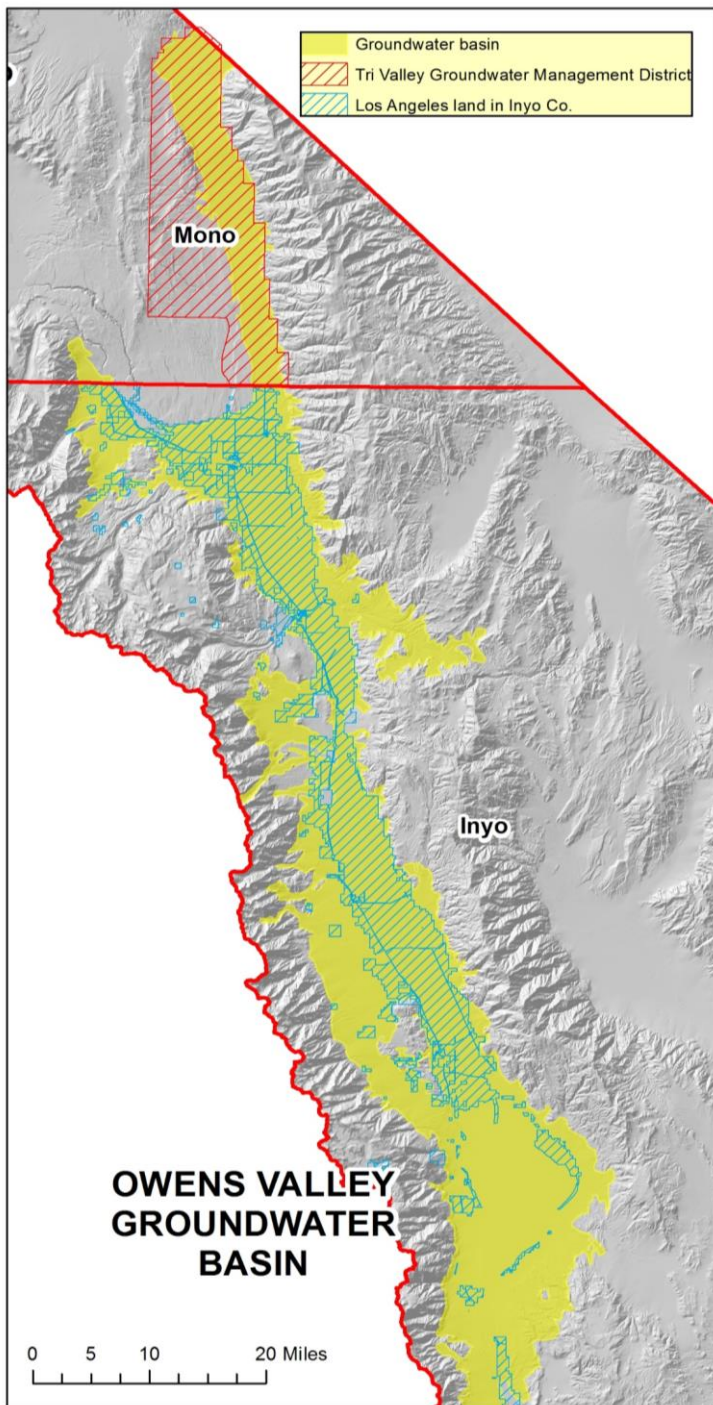
- How Many GSAs
- How Many GSPs
- What is the Composition of the GSA(s)
- How will non-GSA eligible Stakeholders be represented



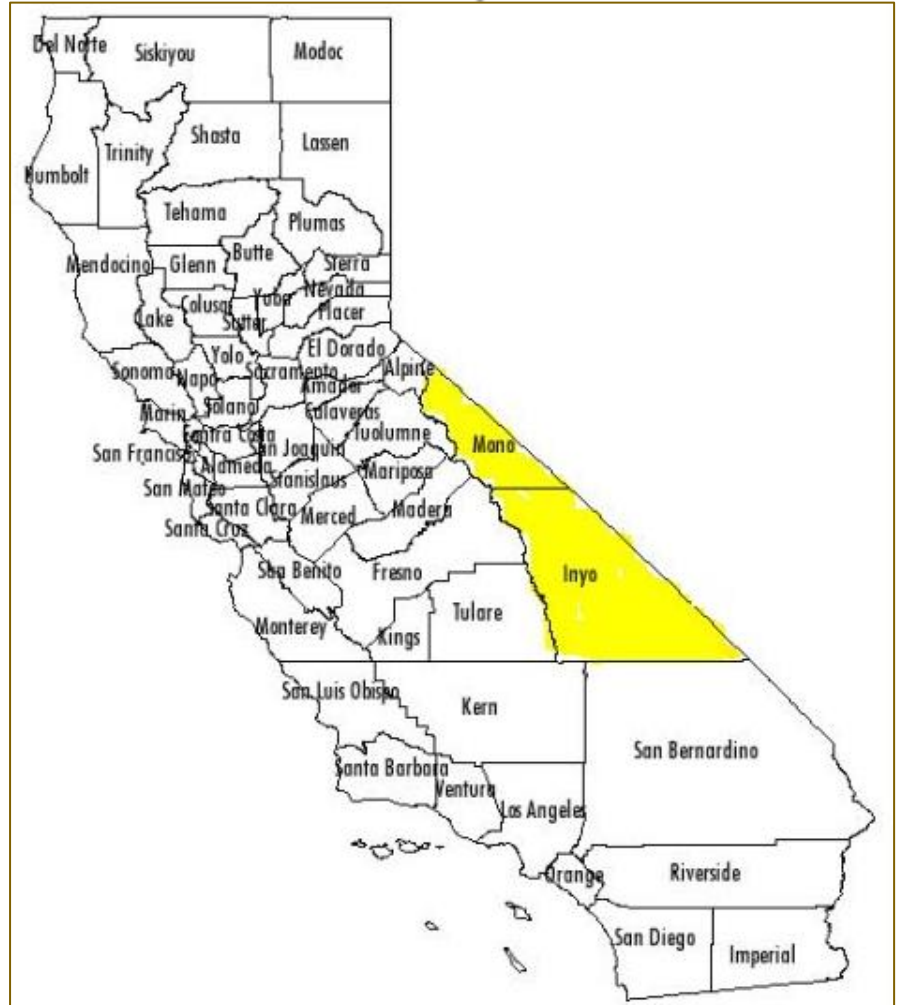
How Many GSAs?

- General Interest in one or two with JPA or MOU types of Agreements





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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

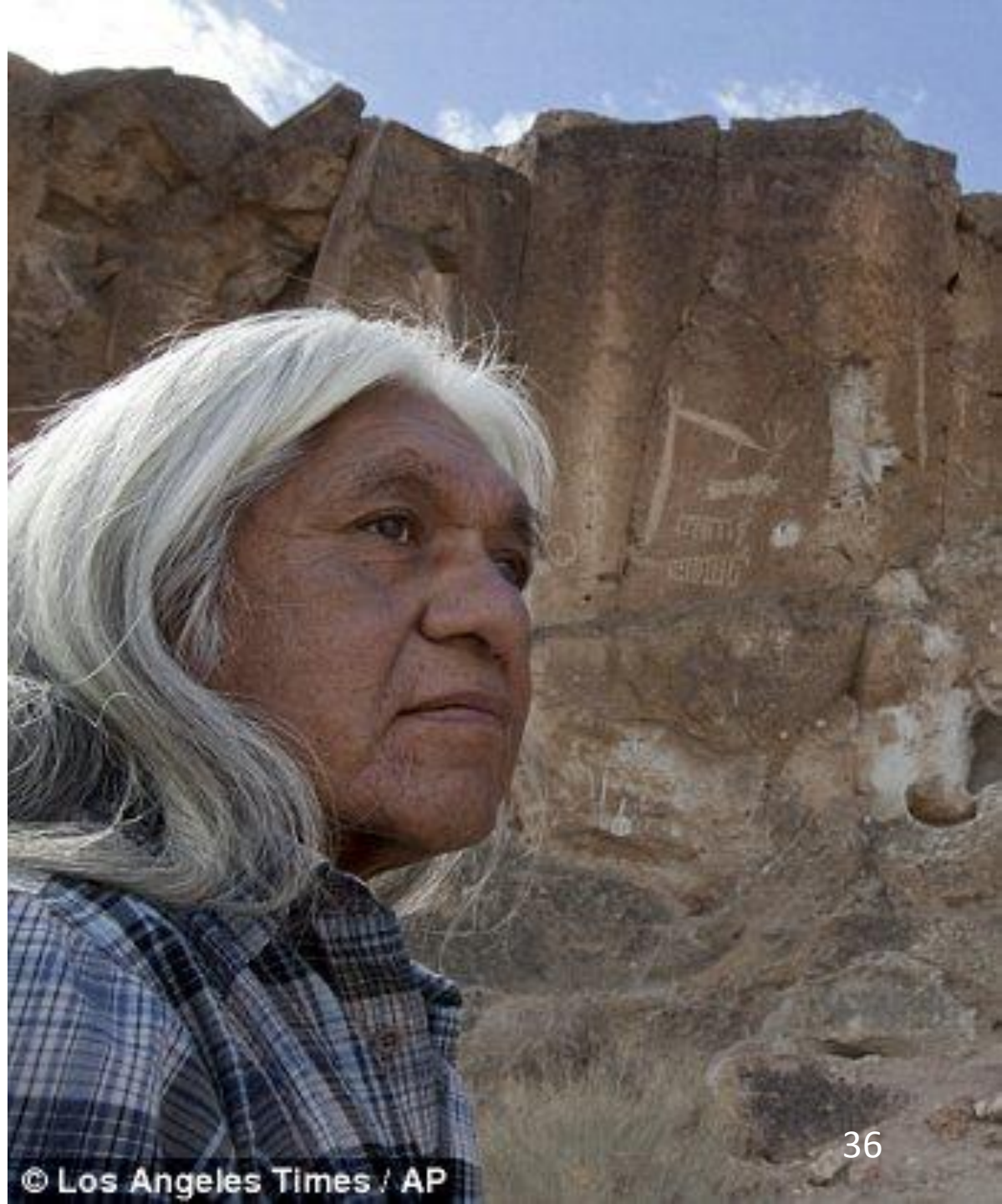


- Designated under SGMA as the Presumptive GSA for its area

- <http://www.monocounty.ca.gov/tri-valley-groundwater/page/about-tri-valley-groundwater-management-district>

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

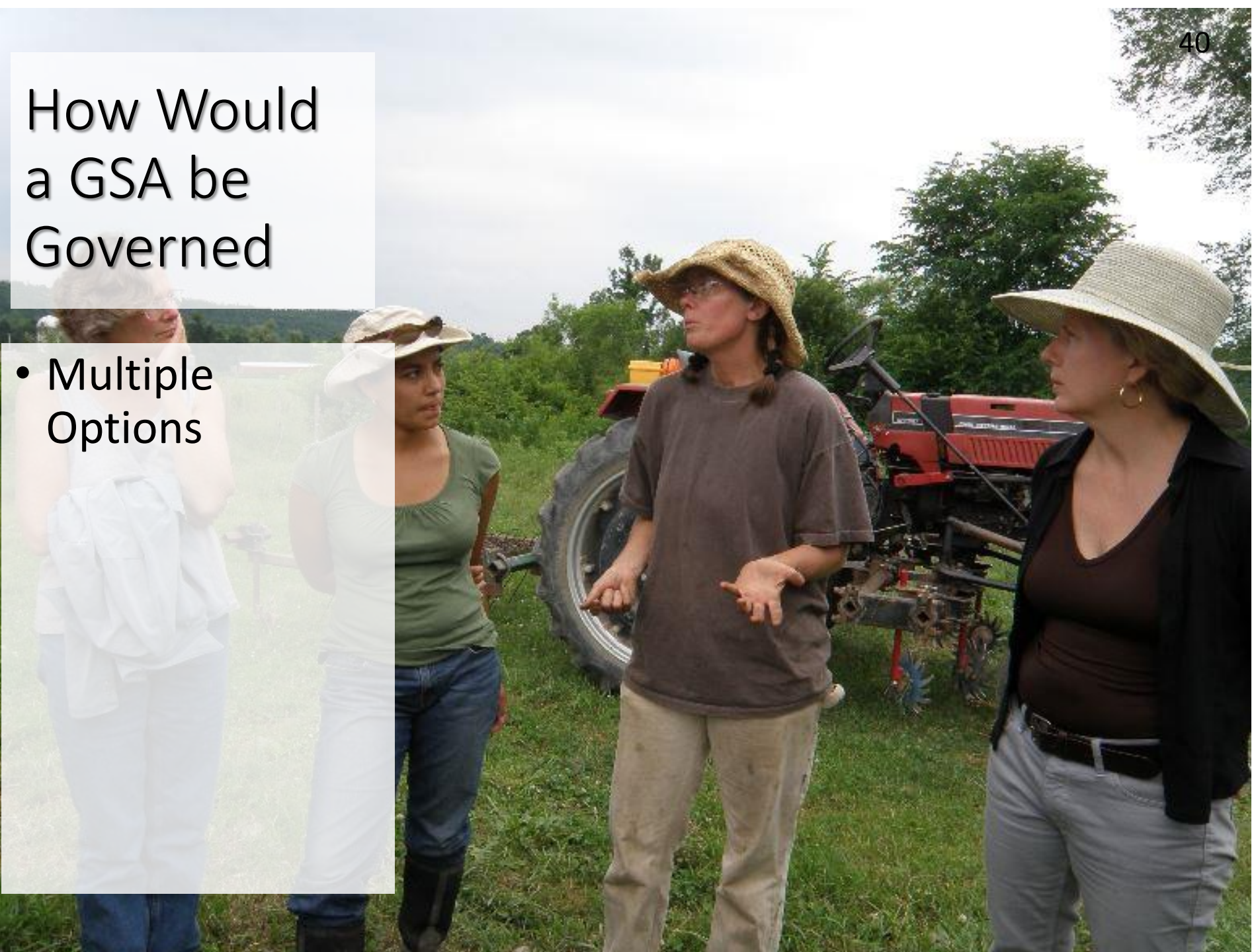
- National Park Service
- BLM
- Forest Service

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.

Legal Voting Arrangement

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

RISK CATEGORY	Outreach RISK FACTORS
Technical, quality, or performance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Realistic performance goals, scope and objectives
Project management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quality of outreach design • Outreach deployment and change management • Appropriate allocation of time and resources • Adequate support for Outreach in project management plans
Organizational / Internal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Executive Sponsorship • Proper prioritization of efforts • Conflicts with other functions • Distribution of workload
External	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legal and regulatory environment • Changing priorities • Risks related to political dynamics
Historical	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Past experiences with similar projects • Organizational relations with stakeholders • Policy and data adequacy • Media and stakeholder fatigue

Management Area Issues



Next Steps -

- Scopes of Work



Questions ???



For More information
Contact Lisa Beutler
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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

