

What is the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA)?

SGMA is a law signed by Governor Brown on September 16, 2014. SGMA requires local agencies to manage groundwater use so there are no undesirable results. All groundwater basins rated medium or high priority in Department of Water Resources Bulletin 118 must create a Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) and a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP), or the State will step in to manage groundwater. For more information visit:

http://www.water.ca.gov/cagroundwater/docs/sgma_brochure_jan_2015.pdf

What basins in Shasta County currently have a medium or high priority rating, and are they critical?

As of the Interim Bulletin 118 update in 2016, there are two medium priority subbasins in Shasta County. The Anderson and Enterprise subbasins are both part of the Redding Area Groundwater Basin. Neither is considered to be in critical condition.

To view a complete map of all alluvial groundwater basins in California and their rating, go to <https://gis.water.ca.gov/app/gicima/>. On the upper left side of the page there are two tabs, "Water Levels" and "Boundaries". Click on Boundaries and then check the box next to "CASGEM Groundwater Basin Prioritization".

Why are the Anderson and Enterprise subbasins rated medium?

The Department of Water Resources considers eight factors in basin ratings. Population overlying the basin and their dependence on groundwater are weighted heavily. There are no known problems with the Redding Area Groundwater Basin. Creation of a groundwater sustainability plan will better our understanding of what's happening underground.

For more information about basin ratings visit: <https://gis.water.ca.gov/app/gicima/>. On the upper left side of the page there are two tabs, "Water Levels" and "Boundaries". Click on Boundaries and then check the box next to "CASGEM Groundwater Basin Prioritization". Once that layer loads select the groundwater basin, this will display a box with a URL, that URL will take you to the Basin Summary that explains the rankings.

What are the key dates for SGMA?

The important dates for the Redding Basin are the formation of a GSA by June 30, 2017, and creation of a GSP by January 31, 2022. For a complete SGMA timeline visit:

<http://www.bvh2o.com/SGMA/SGMA%20Timeline.pdf>

What is a GSA?

A Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) is responsible for sustainably managing groundwater in a basin. They do this through the development and implementation of a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP). GSAs have been granted authorities through SGMA to help them achieve sustainability. Any local public agency that has water supply, water management, or land use responsibilities in a basin can become a GSA. Two GSA's cannot overlap.

For frequently asked questions relating to GSAs visit:

http://www.water.ca.gov/groundwater/sgm/pdfs/DWR_GSA_FAQ_2016-01-07.pdf

Authorities granted to GSAs are discussed in the water code beginning in section 10725:
http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displayText.xhtml?lawCode=WAT&division=6.&title=&part=2.74.&chapter=5.&article=

Is there a GSA for the Anderson and Enterprise Subbasins?

Shasta County, City of Anderson, City of Redding, Anderson-Cottonwood Irrigation District, Bella Vista Water District, and Clear Creek Community Services District have signed a memorandum of understanding (attached) that creates the Enterprise-Anderson Groundwater Sustainability Agency (EAGSA). The purpose of EAGSA is to sustainably manage the Enterprise and Anderson subbasins and comply with SGMA, while keeping taxpayer costs down.

A map showing which basins and subbasins have GSAs can be found at the DWR SGMA Portal:
<https://sgma.water.ca.gov/webgis/index.jsp?appid=gasmaster&rz=true>

What is a GSP?

A GSP is a long term plan to sustainably manage groundwater and prevent undesirable results. The legislation lists six undesirable results: chronic lowering of groundwater levels, reduction of groundwater storage, seawater intrusion, degraded water quality, land subsidence, and depletion of interconnected surface water. Some undesirable results are non-issues in the Redding Basin, but all must be considered in the GSP. A guide for the GSP regulations can be found at:

http://water.ca.gov/groundwater/sgm/pdfs/GSP_Final_Regs_Guidebook.pdf

Is there a GSP for the Anderson and Enterprise Subbasins?

Not yet. Once a GSA is formed, steps will be taken to create a GSP. It is anticipated that the GSP will be adopted prior to the 2022 deadline.

In the interim, groundwater is managed in accordance with the Coordinated AB3030 Groundwater Management Plan, adopted by the County in May 2007. The AB 3030 plan can be found at:
http://www.co.shasta.ca.us/index/pw_index/engineering/water_agency/ab3030_plan.aspx

What happens if the State steps in?

If no local agencies choose to be GSAs or if groundwater isn't managed in a sustainable manner, the State Water Resources Control Board may declare a basin probationary and begin management of the basin. For more information on what that involves and a proposed fee schedule visit:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/gmp/docs/fees/sgma_fee_stakeholder_discussion.pdf

How do I get involved?

Contact your local water supplier to get involved. If you are not in a water district, you can be added to the interested parties list by contacting Public Works at (530) 225-5661.