

Implementing SGMA Goals:

- ⇒ Prevent lowering groundwater levels
- ⇒ Prevent reduction of water storage
- ⇒ Prevent degraded water quality
- ⇒ Prevent future land subsidence
- ⇒ Prevent surface water depletion

California's Required SGMA Timeline:

- ⇒ June 30, 2017 — Form GSAs
- ⇒ January 31, 2020 — Develop GSPs for critically Overdrafted Basins
- ⇒ January 31, 2022 — Develop GSPs: High and Medium - Priority Basins
- ⇒ 2020 - 2040 — 20 year timeframe for Critically Overdrafted Basins to Implement GSPs
- ⇒ 2022 - 2042 — 20 year timeframe for High to Medium Priority Basins to Implement GSPs

SGMA Partners:

- ◆ RCDs
- ◆ Farm Bureau
- ◆ Self Help Enterprises
- ◆ Madera County
- ◆ Water Districts
- ◆ Land Owners & More



Participation Opportunities

SGMA empowers local water users to come together to decide how to use and manage groundwater. GSAs are required to hold public meetings and allow for public input. GSAs can impose different types of fees. Fee types may include groundwater extraction, GSP development, GSP implementation and program administration. If managed well, groundwater can be a reliable source that is available long term. Therefore, decisions made by the GSAs will affect residents in rural communities like yours.

- ☼ **Understand the groundwater challenges affecting rural unincorporated communities and/or private wells.**
- ☼ **Identify and develop projects that improve groundwater conditions in your community.**
- ☼ **Identify ways to keep SGMA fees affordable**

Sustainable Groundwater Management

The Act (SGMA) defines "sustainable groundwater management" as management and use of groundwater in a manner that keeps groundwater aquifers productive indefinitely, without causing undesirable results.



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Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA)



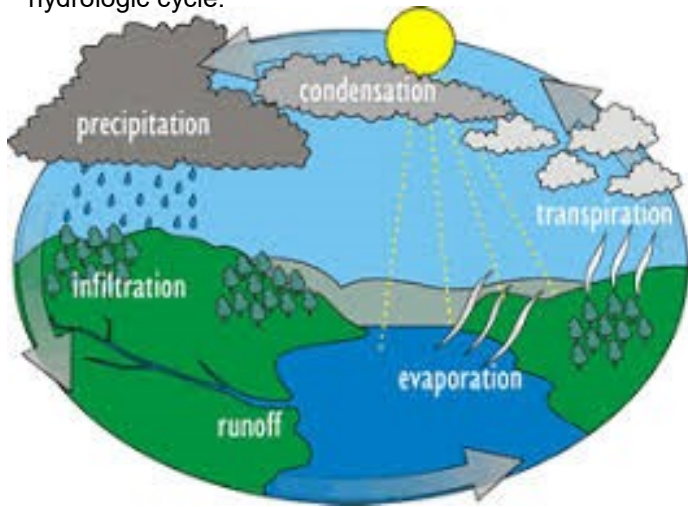
In California

In Madera County

What is Groundwater?



Groundwater is the water found underground in the cracks and spaces in soil, sand, and rock. These underground reserves of water are called aquifers. Groundwater is not new water, it is “recycled” water that is related to all the other water on earth by a process called the hydrologic cycle.



Groundwater is used for:

Drinking water—Agriculture— Environment

Groundwater is stored underground in the pore spaces of saturated soil and rock materials. In many areas of California, groundwater pumping exceeds the amount that is replenished over the long term. This is commonly known as overdraft. Overdraft has caused many problems including:

- ✓ Higher pumping costs - water is being pumped from deeper wells
- ✓ Declining groundwater levels - dry wells
- ✓ Loss of aquifers and/or subsidence

During drought periods, groundwater withdrawal increases because less surface water is available. Up until recently, groundwater management has been voluntary and minimal.

The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) of 2014 is a law that, once fully implemented, will fundamentally change the way we manage and use groundwater in California. SGMA aims to improve groundwater management to ensure groundwater is a reliable source that is available long term.



Form Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) to manage and regulate groundwater; including the ability to limit or suspend groundwater pumping and charge fees for groundwater extraction

All GSAs must develop Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs). GSPs will need to document the groundwater conditions in the area; establish goals to prevent negative impacts (also known as undesirable results). And identify projects and management actions that improve groundwater conditions.



GSAs will have 20 years to implement the GSP and achieve sustainability. SGMA applies to areas with known ground water challenges (also known as critically over-drafted basins or high and medium priority basins) Most of the San Joaquin Valley fits this description