

**PUBLIC AGENDA**

**GROUNDWATER LEGISLATIVE STAKEHOLDER MEETING #2  
SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT BILLS  
(SB 1168, PAVLEY & AB 1739, DICKINSON)**

*JULY 10, 2014            2:30 – 4: PDT  
CSAC Conference Room, 1020 11th Street, Sacramento CA, 95814, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor*

**Dial-in number: 712-432-1212  
Meeting ID: 782-216-139**

**Welcome, Opening Remarks, and Introductions**

**Meeting Purpose, Format, Roles, and Guidelines**

**Focused Questions: Background and Discussion**

- **Question 1a. High and Medium priority sub-basins** – See attachment for details
- **Question 1b. Low and very low priority sub-basins** – See attachment for details
- **Question 2. Modification of sub-basin/basin boundaries** – See attachment for details
- **Question 3. Land use/Water use restrictions** – See attachment for details
- **Question 4: Local Authorities for sustainable groundwater management** – See attachment for details

**Next Steps**

**Adjourn**

(See Attachment for Questions 1-4)

## Questions 1-4

### 1. How do we ensure that all basins are in compliance with the requirement to manage groundwater sustainably?

#### 1a. What should be required of high and medium priority sub-basins?

There has been general support that more stringent groundwater plan requirements should apply to only the high and medium priority basins, as determined by the Department of Water Resources' CASGEM program. This approach raises several questions.

- a. Which basins should be subject to new sustainable management requirements?
- b. Should there be some sort of review process to verify that existing groundwater management agencies, plans, and adjudications substantively conform to the requirements? How do we ensure that they continue to do so over time?
- c. If a review was required for existing agencies, plans, and adjudications, what standards or metrics should be used to determine compliance with the new sustainable management requirements?

#### 1b. What, if anything, should be required of low and very low priority sub-basins?

What actions should be taken to identify the areas at risk, or potentially at risk, to groundwater pumping in low or very low priority areas, including interconnected surface waters that are reduced by groundwater pumping and diminish surface supplies for both water users and fish?

### 2. Modification of Boundaries

There has been general support to use the Bulletin 118 boundaries but many local entities have expressed a need to modify the current boundaries to establish new sub-basins and basins for groundwater management.

- a. Should there be a process to adjust the Bulletin 118 basin boundaries?  
If yes, how could the process be made simple and expedient while still assuring that the revised sub-basin or basin is a meaningful management unit? What criteria should guide establishment of a new sub-basin or basin?

### 3. Land Use/Water Use Restrictions

- a. If local agencies do not comply with the state legislation, such as adopting a groundwater plan by 2020, what kind of penalties can be imposed, such as placing restrictions on pumping, that will both create an imperative to act and protect the resource while action is being taken?
- b. Who should impose penalties and in what manner?

### 4. What authorities do local groundwater management agencies need to sustainably manage groundwater?

Below are tools that have been suggested for inclusion. Are there others that are missing? Should any of the following be removed? If so, why?

- Assess and collect fees, as previously mentioned, both for groundwater management and recharge or in-lieu investments
- Regulate groundwater extractions
- Monitor, measure, and report on groundwater conditions
- Establish a system for allocating groundwater
- Property acquisition, including water rights
- Well regulation, such as the ability to permit new wells, require storage and extraction reporting, and implement best management practices for well spacing, operation, and abandonment
- Groundwater transfer approval
- Groundwater quality protection, such as avoiding contamination risks and controlling migration of contamination plumes
- Enforcement, including the ability to conduct investigations, impose penalties, or seek cease-and-desist orders