



# Butte Valley Groundwater Basin Stakeholder Communication and Engagement Plan



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## Stakeholder Communication and Engagement Plan

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## Overview of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act

The purpose of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA), signed into law by former California Governor Jerry Brown in 2014, is to ensure local sustainable groundwater management in basins throughout the California, including in places like Butte Valley.

SGMA required eligible local agencies in over-drafted and medium/high priority basins to form Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) by June 2017. Once formed, GSAs must prepare and submit Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs) by January 2022 for evaluation by the Department of Water Resources (DWR), and then demonstrate sustainability within 20 years. Butte Valley is a medium priority basin and therefore must comply with SGMA.

SGMA defines six undesirable results for groundwater basins to avoid, includes a statutory framework and timelines for achieving sustainability, and identifies requirements GSAs must follow to engage the beneficial uses and users of groundwater within a basin. Moreover, regulations developed by DWR following the passage of SGMA specify needed documentation and evaluation of groundwater conditions within a basin, as well as the requirements for development and implementation of GSPs designed to achieve or maintain sustainability.<sup>1</sup>

In May, 2016, the California Water Commission unanimously adopted Final GSP Emergency Regulations to guide the GSP development process (California Water Code Section 10733.2). These regulations describe, among other things, the required contents of a GSP, including administrative information, an overview of the basin setting and water budget, sustainable management criteria, description of the groundwater monitoring network, and projects and management actions.

SGMA requires local GSAs to conduct broad stakeholder identification, communication and engagement during GSP development and implementation:

- “The groundwater sustainability agency shall encourage the active involvement of diverse social, cultural, and economic elements of the population within the groundwater basin prior to and during the development and implementation of the groundwater sustainability plan.” (California Water Code Section 10727.8(a))
- “The groundwater sustainability agency shall consider the interests of all beneficial uses and users of groundwater.” (California Water Code Section 10723.2)

To help guide the process of identifying and engaging local stakeholders, SGMA lists all the beneficial users of groundwater whose interests the GSA must consider:

- Agricultural users of water
- Domestic well owners
- Municipal well operators
- Public water systems
- Land use planning agencies
- Environmental users of groundwater
- Surface water users

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<sup>1</sup> California Department of Water Resources. 2017. Draft – Best Management Practices for the Sustainable Management of Groundwater: Sustainable Management Criteria BMP.

- The federal government
- California Native American Tribes
- Disadvantaged communities (including those served by private domestic wells or small community water systems)
- Entities listed in Section 10927<sup>2</sup> that are monitoring and reporting groundwater elevations in all or part of a groundwater basin managed by the groundwater sustainability agency

DWR will evaluate and approve or disapprove GSPs within two years of submission. Once approved, GSPs will be re-evaluated by DWR for progress every five years. Local GSAs have 20 years to demonstrate full sustainability.

## Plan Goals and Objectives

As a tool to assist the Siskiyou County GSA in meeting SGMA’s stakeholder communication and engagement requirements, this plan will:

- Provide the GSA, Advisory Committee, community leaders and other beneficial users a roadmap to ensure broad understanding and consistent messaging of SGMA requirements
- Foster information sharing, communication and collaboration, and opportunities for stakeholders to have meaningful input on the GSA decision-making process
- Provide reasonable opportunities for interested stakeholders to receive and understand the technical groundwater information developed as part of the GSP process
- Ensure a collaborative GSP development and implementation process that is widely seen in the community as fair and respectful to the range of interested or affected stakeholders
- Assist the GSA in meeting all SGMA communication and engagement requirements

Specific objectives that will help the GSA achieve these overarching goals include the following:

- Educate stakeholders on:
  - Important SGMA requirements, events and milestones
  - The role, authorities and responsibilities of the local GSA in Siskiyou County
  - The Advisory Committee’s role and how the public can stay informed or involved
  - The benefits of having a technically robust and broadly supported GSP
  - Potential changes to groundwater monitoring and management under SGMA
  - How the interests of beneficial uses and users will be considered under SGMA
- Develop strategies and communication mechanisms for obtaining broad stakeholder input and feedback that informs GSP development
- Coordinate outreach and engagement activities that foster information sharing, raise awareness and encourage public engagement in SGMA
- Ensure the needs, interests and perspectives of all beneficial uses and users are identified, documented and considered by the District Board
- Support local beneficial users to identify, preempt or otherwise proactively address and resolve different perspectives or conflicts over groundwater use and management
- Track all input received by beneficial users during the GSP development process and document District Board (GSA Board) responses as input is considered
- Develop strategies and communication mechanisms for long-term GSP implementation

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<sup>2</sup> Entities that may assume responsibility for monitoring and reporting groundwater elevations in all or a part of a basin or subbasin in accordance with this section are listed [here](#).

## **SGMA Implementation in Siskiyou County**

In Siskiyou County SGMA implementation began with the formation of a local GSA and continues through a collaborative process that provides regular opportunities for public input.

### ***Groundwater Sustainability Agency Formation***

The Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) for the Butte Valley Groundwater Basin is the Siskiyou County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (District). The Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors sits as the District Board and holds their District meetings during the regularly scheduled County Board of Supervisors meetings. The District is the only eligible local agency with jurisdiction over the entirety of the Butte, Scott and Shasta Valley groundwater basins. Early in the SGMA implementation process, District staff conducted countywide stakeholder workshops and garnered support to serve as the GSA for all three of these groundwater basins in the county, each of which must comply with SGMA. In its capacity as the GSA, the District will solicit and consider feedback on SGMA related issues from the public, and serve as the final decision maker in the GSP development and implementation process. The Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors also serves as a member of the Tulelake GSA, along with Tulelake Irrigation District, Modoc County, and the City of Tulelake.

### ***Technical Support***

Preparation of a GSP is a complex process that requires considerable research, discussion and deliberation before adoption. The GSA secured a DWR Sustainable Groundwater Management Grant Program Proposition 1<sup>3</sup> grant to support this collaborative SGMA effort<sup>4</sup>. This grant enabled contracting of a technical consulting team, Larry Walker Associates, to draft the GSP, conduct scientific studies, and build a groundwater monitoring network in each basin to inform GSP development and implementation. The technical consulting team will work with GSA staff and Advisory Committee members to outreach, network, and discuss with stakeholders in the basin regarding available technical information, studies and data gathering that would be beneficial for GSP development and implementation. Interaction between stakeholders and the technical consulting team will be valuable for substantive and extensive input into the GSP.

### ***Facilitation Support***

The GSA also leverage funds from DWR's Facilitation Support Services Program to secure impartial facilitation services of the Sacramento State University Consensus and Collaboration Program (CCP). CCP initially conducted a countywide situation assessment in order to gain insight and understanding of the range of issues, perspectives and interests on groundwater planning held by different stakeholders across Siskiyou County. As the GSP is developed, CCP will continue to support the District's efforts to engage stakeholders, tribes and the wider public at advisory, public and, as needed, special meetings. Continuation of facilitation support post-GSP submittal to DWR is contingent on available funding and if the use of impartial facilitation services are still considered necessary or warranted by District Board and staff, Advisory Committees and other interested parties.

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<sup>3</sup> Proposition 1 (Prop 1) or the Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014 authorized \$7.545 billion in general obligation bonds for water projects including surface and groundwater storage, ecosystem and watershed protection and restoration, and drinking water protection.

<sup>4</sup> At a later date, additional grant sources may be added (e.g. Proposition 68 funds).

### ***GSA Decision-Making***

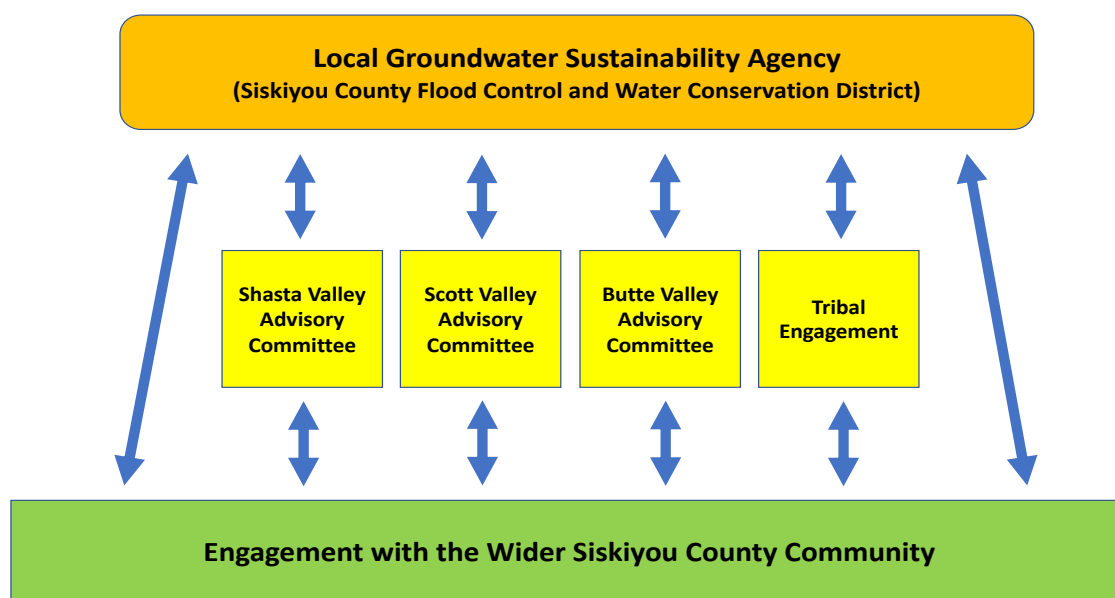
The District Board, in its capacity as the final decision-maker in the GSP process, will:

- Review and offer feedback on technical data, documentation, presentations, and other appropriate items as it pertains to SGMA and development of the GSP
- Review and make recommendations on appropriate studies, models, projects, and other technical needs that provide additional GSP-related information
- Identify and make recommendations on proposed groundwater management goals, objectives and strategies specific to the GSP
- Provide comments, recommendations, or suggestions on professional consultants, or technical experts, being considered to support local SGMA implementation
- Identify and review grant or funding opportunities that would provide financial support for GSP development and implementation
- Hear and offer feedback on GSP-related presentations by organizations, companies, consultants, or other necessary individuals or entities

GSA staff, with support from its technical and facilitation consultants, maintains a schedule that guides the collaborative GSP development and implementation process (see ‘Phases of Groundwater Sustainability Development’ below). The schedule is designed to integrate the social and technical elements of groundwater management planning, facilitate an open and transparent stakeholder engagement process, and provide a wide range of useful information that informs GSA decision-making.

The District Board will consider recommendations from a formally established Advisory Committee (described below) of diverse stakeholder interests when making SGMA decisions. If the District Board does not agree with committee recommendations or other input, it shall, as part of the process of tracking and responding to input received during the GSP development process, state the reasons for its decision.

**Figure 1. Framework for Stakeholder Communication and Engagement**



### *Stakeholder Advisory Committee*

The District Board established the Butte Valley Groundwater Basin Advisory Committee (Advisory Committee) as a mechanism to secure local knowledge and insights as the GSP is developed. In its advisory role, the committee will review draft and final documents prepared by the SGMA technical team and provide the GSA with input and recommendations. Consensus building is a foundational principle of all committee discussions, and the group's membership is intended to reflect the diversity of beneficial groundwater users of Butte Valley (See Appendix I – Advisory Committee membership; see also [Butte Valley Advisory Committee Charter](#)).

#### **Advisory Committee Goals**

- Work collaboratively and transparently with other members to identify common goals, foster mutual understanding, and provide consensus recommendations to the District Board that help the District develop a locally informed and broadly supported GSP
- Develop a common understanding of all existing groundwater resources and groundwater/surface water interaction in the Butte Valley groundwater basin
- Solicit and incorporate community and stakeholder interests into committee discussions and emerging committee recommendations
- Consider and integrate science, as guided and with support from the District's qualified scientific consultants, when reviewing and commenting on GSP development and implementation
- Collaborate in good faith to achieve consensus recommendations; and to the extent consensus cannot be achieved, share with the District Board minority viewpoints as well
- Provide support to the GSA regarding implementation actions set forth in the GSP

#### **Committee Member Roles**

- Review and offer feedback on technical data, documentation, presentations, and other appropriate items as it pertains to SGMA and the development of the GSP
- Review and make recommendations on appropriate studies, models, projects, and other technical needs that will aid in developing additional information in relation to the GSP
- Identify and make recommendations on proposed groundwater management goals, objectives and strategies specific to the GSP
- Provide comments, recommendations, or suggestions on professional consultants, or technical experts, being considered by the District Board
- Identify and review grant or funding opportunities that would provide financial support for GSP development and implementation
- Hear and offer feedback on presentations by organizations, companies, consultants, or other necessary individuals or entities regarding the GSP

### *Tribal Engagement*

To foster meaningful engagement with Native American Tribes, the GSA will maintain a government-to-government relationship with any tribe in Siskiyou County or the larger Klamath River watershed which expresses interest in SGMA. In addition, the GSA has appointed a tribal representative to the Advisory Committees for the Shasta Valley, Scott Valley and Butte Valley groundwater basins. Tribal representation on these committees is based on multiple factors, including cultural relationship to the area, ancestral territory and land held in trust or reservation



within a given basin. The GSA has begun developing communication protocols and coordination agreements with tribes who have voiced interest in SGMA. Individual tribes are recognized as sovereign tribal nations; no one tribe represents another. In Butte Valley, the Shasta Indian Nation is represented on the local SGMA Advisory Committee.

### ***Community Involvement***

To ensure broad public awareness and involvement as the GSP is developed, the GSA has tasked Advisory Committee members to act as liaisons to educate, inform and solicit input from the wider local community throughout the collaborative process. Key meetings and milestones during the process in which the general public is encouraged to attend and provide feedback on draft GSP content or other SGMA related issues include, but are not necessarily limited to:

- Bi-monthly Advisory Committee meetings when draft GSP sections are introduced, discussed or evaluated by members
- Advisory Committee engagement with constituents, with support as needed from GSA staff, during related meetings, events, and discussions by members,
- Stakeholder meetings led by GSA staff with participation from Advisory Committee members, Technical Consulting Team members and/or Facilitation Support Services
- Public comment periods when draft GSP sections are made available for review
- Regularly scheduled District Board meetings
- Special meetings that are scheduled, noticed in advance and open to the public

At key intervals during GSP development, the GSA will hold public meetings in order to share information, respond to questions or concerns about SGMA, and solicit input from the wider community. Interested parties can also reach out to District staff at any time to share and discuss specific elements of the GSP or SGMA in general.

### ***Brown Act Compliance***

All District Board and Advisory Committee meetings will operate in compliance with the Ralph M. Brown Act<sup>5</sup> (Brown Act). Each will be noticed and agendas posted in advance. Meetings are open to the public and allow public comment. The GSA will announce all meetings on its website and through regular communication channels, including a SGMA interested parties list.

### **Target Audiences**

DWR created a stakeholder engagement chart to help GSAs identify and engage the range of beneficial groundwater users in a local basin that must comply with SGMA.<sup>6</sup> Table 1 below is a modified version which lists identified stakeholder groups in the Butte Valley community. Originally developed by GSA staff, the table has been reviewed and improved by the Butte Valley Advisory Committee. Interested parties may also assist the GSA in identifying all stakeholders who have an interest in or may be affected by SGMA. The table may be improved and updated at any time during the GSP development or implementation process. Listed groups represent a priority target audience for SGMA related communication and engagement.

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<sup>5</sup> The Ralph M. Brown Act, located at California Government Code 54950 *et seq.*, is an act of the California State Legislature, authored by Assemblymember Ralph M. Brown and passed in 1953, that guarantees the public's right to attend and participate in meetings of local legislative bodies.

<sup>6</sup> *DWR Guidance Document for Groundwater Sustainability Plan: Stakeholder Communication and Engagement.*

**Table 1. Butte Valley Stakeholder Groups**

Interest Group	Engagement Purpose	Butte Valley Groups
General Public	Inform to improve public awareness of sustainable groundwater management	All beneficial users of groundwater
Land Use	Consult and involve to ensure land use policies are supporting GSPs	Siskiyou County Planning Commission
Private Users	Inform and involve to avoid negative impact to these users	Private Pumpers Domestic/Residential Users
Urban/Ag Users	Collaborate to ensure sustainable management of groundwater	Butte Valley Irrigation District; Siskiyou County Farm Bureau; Private agricultural pumpers; all local school districts; Siskiyou County Cattlemen’s Association; Butte Valley/Lava Beds Resource Conservation District; Oregon/California RC&D
Industrial Users	Inform and involve to avoid negative impact to other users	None at this time
Environmental /Ecosystem	Inform and involve to sustain a vital ecosystem	North Groups Sierra Club/Sierra Club Water Chair; California Waterfowl; Ducks Unlimited; Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation; National Wild Turkey Federation; California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Economic Development	Inform and involve to support a stable economy	Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors; Siskiyou County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (acts as local GSA); Siskiyou Economic Development; Butte Valley Chamber of Commerce; Butte Valley Historical Association
Human Right to Water	Inform and involve to provide safe and secure groundwater supplies to disadvantages communities	City of Dorris; Macdoel; Mt. Hebron, local residents
NGOs/Local Associations/ Clubs	Inform, involve and collaborate to ensure basin sustainability	Siskiyou County Realtors Association; Siskiyou County Water Users; Dorris Lions Club; Local Granges
	Inform, involve and consult with tribal governments (See	Shasta Indian Nation

Native American Tribes	DWR Engagement with Tribal Governments Guidance Document <sup>7)</sup>	Modoc Tribe of Oklahoma Karuk Tribe
State Land Management or Agencies	Inform, involve and collaborate to ensure basin sustainability	CDFW Butte Valley Wildlife Area; State Water Resources Control Board; North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board; CALFIRE
Federal Lands/State Lands	Inform, involve and collaborate to ensure basin sustainability	US Forest Service/National Grasslands; Bureau of Land Management; US Geological Survey; National Marine Fisheries Service; USDA/NRCS; US Fish and Wildlife Service
Integrated Water Management	Inform, involve and collaborate to improve regional sustainability	North Coast Resource Partnership (DWR IRWM Region)

### Phases of Groundwater Sustainability Plan Development

GSP development in the Butte Valley groundwater basin will occur in three major phases, with each phase offering significant opportunities for the public to provide input on draft material developed and presented by the GSA’s technical consultants. Each phase will be linked to core elements of the GSP, including: 1) Introduction and Groundwater Basin Setting; 2) Sustainable Management Criteria; and 3) Project and Management Actions. Draft elements of the GSP will be developed and shared in a way that enables broad stakeholder input, fosters consensus building, and addresses the needs and interests of beneficial users throughout the basin.

The Advisory Committee will serve as the central forum where draft GSP sections will be presented and discussed. Committee members will regularly provide input and help the GSA and its technical team to refine and improve draft materials. Interested parties are also encouraged to attend and provide input at these meetings. GSP chapters with a broad level or even consensus support among committee members, including input from tribes and interested parties, will be presented to the District Board for consideration and approval. At this stage, the District Board may either approve draft GSP chapters or identify issues which require additional information from the technical consultants and more input from the Advisory Committee. A full draft of the GSP will be presented to all the aforementioned parties for final consideration prior to submittal of the document for evaluation by DWR.

At key stages during each phase of GSP development, draft materials that have been reviewed and refined by both the Advisory Committee and District Board will be made available on the county’s website for public comment. Public workshops will also be held at this time with the purpose of sharing key messages associated with draft GSP material, soliciting input on draft material and communicating next steps in the GSP development process. A central goal of this

<sup>7</sup> DWR Guidance Document for the Sustainable Management of Groundwater: Engagement with Tribal Governments.

collaborative process is to achieve the highest level of agreement possible on the contents of the GSP by interested and affected parties. Viewed in this context, all three elements of stakeholder engagement represent important steps in the collaboration: Advisory Committee, tribal and interested party input; public comments, and District Board review and approval. Finally, SGMA requires the GSA to post a public notice of proposed adoption and hold a public hearing prior to formally adopting the GSP.

**Figure 2: Iterative Process of GSP Development**



A schedule has been developed which will guide the iterative process of developing and presenting draft sections of the GSP, and then securing input from committee members, the GSA Board and the public. The primary sections of the GSP—the basin setting, sustainable management criteria, and projects and management actions—will be developed and refined sequentially by phase. Following improvement of these sections through collaborative stakeholder engagement, the final sections, including the introduction to the GSP and view towards implementation, will be developed and shared for feedback. Finally, the full GSP will be assembled, then shared for final review by the committee, the GSA Board and the public. Primary activities and associated milestones by phase will include:

***Phase 1: GSP Introduction and Basin Setting (September, 2019 – January, 2020)***

**Primary Activities**

- 3-4 Advisory Committee meetings
- GSP draft section 2 (Basin Setting) introduced, reviewed and refined
- Basin setting, water budget and hydrologic model introduced, discussed and refined
- GSP draft chapter 2 prepared for Advisory Committee and GSA Board review
- Special meetings scheduled as needed to further discuss and improve draft materials

- 30-45 day public comment period on all draft materials developed under this phase

### **Key Milestones**

Development and initial feedback secured on draft GSP section 2.0 (Plan Area and Basin Setting), including the following:

- 2.1 Description of the Plan Area (Reg. § 354.8)
- 2.11 Summary of Jurisdictional Areas and Other Features (Reg. § 354.8 b)
  - 2.1.2 Water Resources Monitoring and Management Programs (Reg. § 354.8 c, d, e)
  - 2.1.3 Land Use Elements of Topic Categories of Applicable General Plans (Reg. § 354.8 f)
  - 2.1.4 Additional GSP Elements (Reg. § 354.8 g)
  - Notice and Communication (Reg. § 354.10)
- 2.2 Basin Setting
  - 2.2.1 Hydrogeologic Conceptual Model (Reg. § 354.14)
  - 2.2.2 Current and Historical Groundwater Conditions (Reg. § 354.16)
  - 2.2.3 Water Budget Information (Reg. § 354.18)
  - 2.2.4 Management Areas (as applicable) (Reg. § 354.20)

### ***Phase 2: Sustainable Management Criteria (January – December 2020)***

#### **Primary Activities**

- 7-8 Advisory Committee meetings; 2-3 GSA Board meetings and 1 public meeting
- GSP section 3 (Sustainable Management Criteria) introduced, discussed and refined
- Sustainability goal, measurable objectives and minimum thresholds, undesirable results and monitoring network introduced, discussed and refined
- Special meetings scheduled as needed to further discuss and improve draft materials
- 30-45 day public comment period on all draft materials developed under this phase
- Evaluate and, as needed, update stakeholder communication and engagement plan

### **Key Milestones**

Development and initial feedback secured on draft GSP section 3.0 (Sustainable Management Criteria), including the following:

- 3.0 Sustainable Management Criteria (Reg. § 354.22)
  - 3.1 Sustainability Goal (Reg. § 354.24)
  - 3.2 Measurable Objectives (Reg. § 354.30)
  - 3.3 Minimum Thresholds (Reg. § 354.28)
  - 3.4 Undesirable Results (Reg. § 354.26)
  - 3.5 Monitoring Network (Reg. § 354.38)

### ***Phase 3: Projects and Management Actions (September, 2020 – January, 2021)***

#### **Primary Activities**

- Project and management actions, initially introduced and discussed during Sustainable Management Criteria (SMC) development, reviewed and refined

- 4 Advisory Committee meetings; 1-2 GSA Board meetings and 1 public meeting
- GSP draft section 4 (Projects and Management Actions) introduced, reviewed and refined
- Economical evaluation of the different management scenarios suggested
- Special meetings scheduled as needed to further discuss and improve draft materials
- 30-45 day public comment period on all draft materials developed under this phase

### **Key Milestones**

Development and initial feedback secured on draft GSP section 4.0 (Projects and Management Actions to Achieve Sustainability Goal), including the following:

- 4.0 Projects and Management Actions
  - Project descriptions and discussion of possible project implementation
  - 4.1 Development of scenarios to be simulated with the groundwater model

### ***Phase 4: Final Review, Implementation Steps Ahead and Local Plan Adoption (March, 2021 – December, 2021)***

#### **Primary Activities**

- 3-6 Advisory Committee meetings, 2-4 GSA Board meetings, and 1-2 public meetings
- GSP draft section 5 (Plan Implementation) introduced, reviewed and refined
- Full GSP assembled, reviewed and refined/improved as needed, and made ready for public review
- Estimate of GSP implementation costs, schedule for implementation and annual reporting introduced, discussed and refined
- Special meetings scheduled as needed to further discuss and improve full draft GSP
- Evaluate and, as needed, update stakeholder communication and engagement plan
- 30-45 public comment period on all full draft GSP
- Public hearing held in advance of GSA Board adoption of GSP

### **Key Milestones**

- Presentation, review and feedback on GSP introduction section and future implementation steps ahead:
  - Development and feedback secured on GSP introduction section
  - Development and feedback secured on draft GSP section 5.0 (Plan Implementation), including the following:
    - 5.1 Project descriptions and discussion of possible project implementation
- Presentation and, as needed, final refinements/improvements to full GSP
- GSA Board formally adopts GSP

### **Outreach Strategies, Forums and Tools**

SGMA gives local GSAs wide discretion in how to conduct stakeholder communication and engagement. The Siskiyou County GSA will utilize the following outreach strategies, forums and tools to successfully meet all SGMA stakeholder engagement requirements:

**Advisory Committee Meetings:** The Butte Valley Groundwater Advisory Committee will gather for six regularly scheduled meetings each year in 2019 and 2020 along with potential

additional “Special Meetings” should such meetings be warranted, and on an as needed basis in 2021. The purpose of these meetings is for committee members to provide local insights, advice and recommendations during the GSP development process. The meetings also provide an important forum that enables interested parties to stay informed of SGMA activities and contribute to GSP development. Interested members of the public are encouraged to attend Advisory Committee meetings. GSA staff will keep a record of attendance, and track the various constituencies and interested parties which attend and contribute to GSP development.

**Constituent Briefings:** Advisory Committee members, and, as needed, GSA staff, will provide updates for, and solicit feedback from, their local constituent groups regarding ongoing SGMA activities. Briefings should inform key constituents about SGMA implementation, major milestones and achievements, and opportunities for voluntary participation in the groundwater monitoring program. Committee members will report back constituent input received at briefings to the full Advisory Committee for discussion and consideration.

**Local Organizations:** At times District Board members and staff, as well as Advisory Committee members, will share information and coordinate with established community organizations such as NGO’s, irrigation districts, or localized interested parties by attending standing meetings and utilizing known communication channels. Additional coordination may occur through non-SGMA related forums, monthly information pieces in newsletters, or by disseminating information in any other manner that reaches the desired target audience.

**Tribal Engagement:** In addition to the role that tribal representatives will play on Advisory Committees, the GSA will, as noted, maintain a government-to-government relationship with any tribe in the Siskiyou County/Klamath River watershed region that expresses interest in participating in SGMA activities. The GSA will seek to foster trust building, provide the opportunity for tribes to have meaningful involvement, and create a forum by which sovereign tribes can communicate their respective needs and interests around SGMA. As noted earlier, the GSA has utilized DWR Facilitation Support Services to help develop and maintain positive relationships with interested tribes.

**Public Meetings and Workshops:** Public meetings and workshops will be held as needed at key milestones or as required by SGMA. These events can target specific geographic areas or be designed to welcome constituents from across the basin. At times, public meetings may be held in different locations across Siskiyou County. GSA staff, as well as the GSA’s technical and facilitation consultants, will help plan and facilitate these events. Advisory Committee members and the District Board may play a support role.

**District Board Meetings:** GSA staff, with support from its technical and facilitation consultants, will provide regular updates to the District Board during the GSP development and implementation process. In turn, the District Board will provide guidance and direction to the overall SGMA implementation process. At times, Advisory Committee members, tribes or other interested parties may address the District Board regarding issues linked to SGMA. The District Board will provide a notice of intent and public hearing prior to formal adoption of the GSP.

**Coordination with State and Federal Agencies:** In order to ensure effective integration of distinct, yet oftentimes overlapping, water management and policy programs, the GSA will coordinate and share information, as needed, with state and federal agencies such as the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Department of Water Resources, State Water Resources Control Board, US Fish and Wildlife Service and National Marine Fisheries Service.

**Interested Parties List:** GSA staff will maintain a interested parties email list that includes anyone interested in receiving information on SGMA in Siskiyou County during GSP development and implementation. Notification for public meetings and comment periods on draft GSP materials will be distributed through the interested parties list.

**Integration of Relevant Studies/Materials:** At times committee members or the public may be aware of useful studies, data or other information that can help inform the GSP development and implementation process. Committee members and others are encouraged to share relevant material with the local SGMA program coordinator, who in turn can bring these materials to the attention of the technical consultants and the Advisory Committee, and post documents for reference on the county's SGMA webpage.

**Advisory Committee Meeting Announcements:** Meeting agendas and handouts will be distributed to committee members and the interested parties list 72 hours prior to each meeting.

**Social Media:** Although not currently used, Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and other emerging social media technologies may be utilized to provide SGMA updates to interested parties.

**Informational Materials:** GSA staff, with support from both its consultants and Advisory Committee members, will jointly develop and utilize an array of informational materials to educate the public. These materials may include, but not necessarily be limited to, the following:

- Local SGMA brochures and key talking points
- Frequently asked questions about SGMA, the local GSA and the local GSP
- Existing and new educational materials
- Publicly available groundwater elevation or other related data
- Press releases, newspaper editorials and newsletter articles

**Website:** The GSA will regularly post and archive SGMA affiliated meeting materials on the county's established SGMA website (e.g. meeting agendas, presentations, summaries). The website will also serve as a repository for groundwater related reports, studies and other topical information discussed by the GSA or its Advisory Committees.

**Media:** Production of public service announcements, press releases or featured articles will expand awareness of SGMA and how interested parties can get involved. At important milestones advertisements or other announcements in local newspapers will provide information about public meetings, workshops and public comment periods on draft GSP materials.

## **Plan Evaluation and Adaptation**

The Siskiyou County GSA will evaluate the effectiveness and efficacy of its stakeholder communication and engagement plan on, at minimum, an annual basis. Evaluations will likely



occur at or near key milestones, such as the completion of a major phase of work, as described above. Overarching questions that may guide the evaluation will include:

- Have all beneficial users been identified and effectively engaged?
- What has worked well and how can success be built on?
- What has not worked as planned and needs to change?
- What lessons learned will guide future stakeholder communication and engagement?

## **Appendix I – GSA Board, Staff and Advisory Committee Members**

### **District Board of Directors**

- Supervisor Brandon Criss, District 1
- Supervisor Ed Valenzuela, District 2
- Supervisor Michael Kobseff, District 3
- Supervisor Lisa Nixon, District 4
- Supervisor Ray Haupt, District 5

### **GSA Staff**

- Elizabeth Nielson, Project Coordinator
- Matt Parker, Natural Resources Specialist

### **Advisory Committee Members**

- Steve Albaugh, Private Pumper
- Don Bowen (Vice Chair), Residential
- Don Crawford, Private Pumper
- Patrick Graham, CDFW Butte Valley Wildlife Area
- Greg Herman, Private Pumper
- Steve Lutz, Butte Valley Irrigation District
- Carol Mckay, City of Dorris
- Richard Nelson (Chair), Private Pumper
- Jeff Volberg, Environmental/Conservation
- Howard Wynant, Shasta Indian Nation

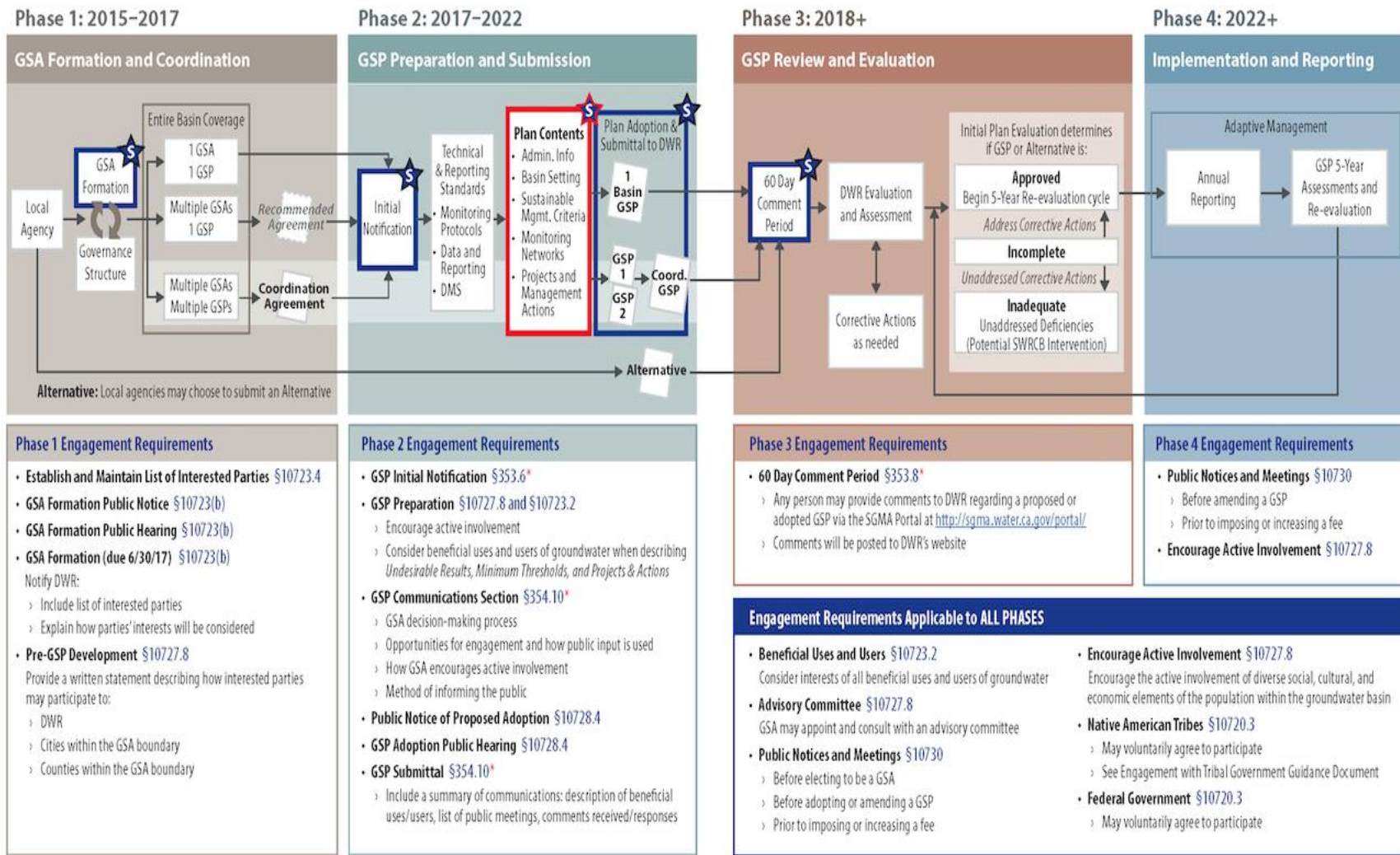
## Appendix II – SGMA Educational Materials and References

DWR, and its many partners in academia and civil society, have developed a wide array of educational materials to assist GSAs, Advisory Committees and communities with SGMA implementation. Although not an exhaustive list, interested parties may educate themselves about SGMA with some of the following resources.

**Table 2. SGMA Educational Resources**

Educational Resource/Weblink	Publisher	Year
<a href="#">The 2014 Sustainable Groundwater Management Act: A Handbook to Understanding and Implementing the Law</a>	Water Education Foundation	2015
<a href="#">Collaborating for Success: Stakeholder Engagement for Sustainable Groundwater Management Act Implementation</a>	Community Water Center Clean Water Fund Union of Concerned Scientists	2015
<a href="#">Groundwater Sustainability Agency – Frequently Asked Questions</a>	Department of Water Resources	2016
<a href="#">Groundwater Sustainability Plan Emergency Regulations (GSP Regulations)</a>	Department of Water Resources	2016
<a href="#">Guidance Document for the Sustainable Management of Groundwater: Engagement With Tribal Governments</a>	Department of Water Resources	2018
<a href="#">Guidance Document for Groundwater Sustainability Plan Stakeholder Communication and Engagement</a>	Department of Water Resources	2018
<a href="#">TNC Groundwater Resource Hub</a>	The Nature Conservancy	2018

# Appendix III – SGMA Stakeholder Engagement Requirements



★ Stakeholder Input      ★ Stakeholders should be informed throughout the development of Plan Content

Code References: §(#) = SGMA, §(#)\* = GSP Regulations

Source: Department of Water Resources (Updated June, 2017)



June 2020

Visit the [Siskiyou County SGMA website](#) for more information

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