

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT ACT WITHIN CCID AND THE EXCHANGE CONTRACTORS

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Key Acronyms:

- CCC – Columbia Canal Company
- CCID – Central California Irrigation District
- DWR – California Department of Water Resources
- FCWD – Firebaugh Canal Water District
- GSA – Groundwater Sustainability Agency
- GSP – Groundwater Sustainability Plan
- SGMA – Sustainable Groundwater Management Act
- SJRECWA – San Joaquin River Exchange Contractors Water Authority (Exchange Contractors); comprised of CCID, SLCC, FCWD, and CCC
- SLCC – San Luis Canal Company
- SWRCB – State Water Resources Control Board (State Board)

Key Definitions:

- Coordination Agreement - A legal agreement adopted between two or more groundwater sustainability agencies that provides the basis for coordinating multiple agencies or groundwater sustainability plans within a basin pursuant to this part.
- De minimis extractor - A person who extracts, for domestic purposes, two acre-feet or less per year.
- Delta-Mendota Subbasin – Subbasin to the San Joaquin Valley Basin, the SJRECWA is entirely within this subbasin.
- GSA - One or more local agencies that implement the provisions of this part. For purposes of imposing fees pursuant to Chapter 8 (commencing with Section 10730) or taking action to enforce a groundwater sustainability plan, "groundwater sustainability agency" also means each local agency comprising the groundwater sustainability agency if the plan authorizes separate agency action.
- GSP - A plan of a groundwater sustainability agency proposed or adopted pursuant to this part.
- Sustainability Goal - The existence and implementation of one or more groundwater sustainability plans that achieve sustainable groundwater management by identifying and causing the implementation of measures targeted to ensure that the applicable basin is operated within its sustainable yield.
- Undesirable Result - One or more of the following effects caused by groundwater conditions occurring throughout the basin:
 1. Chronic lowering of groundwater levels indicating a significant and unreasonable depletion of supply if continued over the planning and implementation horizon. Overdraft during a period of drought is not sufficient to establish a chronic lowering of groundwater levels if extractions and recharge are managed as necessary to ensure that reductions in groundwater levels or storage during a period of drought are offset by increases in groundwater levels or storage during other periods.
 2. Significant and unreasonable reduction of groundwater storage.
 3. Significant and unreasonable seawater intrusion.

4. Significant and unreasonable degraded water quality, including the migration of contaminant plumes that impair water supplies.
5. Significant and unreasonable land subsidence that substantially interferes with surface land uses.
6. Depletions of interconnected surface water that have significant and unreasonable adverse impacts on beneficial uses of the surface water.

Current Status:

- GSA – CCID, jointly with the Exchange Contractors, were one of the first agencies to file as a GSA with DWR and receive approval. The Exchange Contractors GSA is also receiving Special Act Legislation to confirm the agencies right to manage groundwater for its service area. One of the major reasons we have managed our aquifer sustainably is due to our strong surface water rights. With that in mind, the Exchange Contractors have teamed up to implement SGMA and develop a Water Resources Management Plan. This gives the Exchange Contractors the ability to establish a water resources plan instead of having the county or state board plan the future. We are also working with the cities, counties and CVP contractors to get full GSA coverage for the Delta-Mendota Subbasin.
- GSP – A draft Hydrogeologic Conceptual Model and Groundwater Conditions Report has been prepared. Numerous maps have been sketched showing our: monitoring efforts, bottom of the basin, water surface elevation and water depth, and depth to the top of the Corcoran Clay. A customized database has been developed for groundwater management. CCID has a well monitoring program in place and we have prepared hydrographs for our wells through 2016. The next big task for the plan is to update a water balance.
- Sustainability – Here is how we plan to address the undesirable results:
 1. Chronic Lowering of Groundwater – We have programs in place that have effectively allowed an aquifer to recover by not allowing groundwater exchanges out of the area. This management technique worked well during the last drought and will be an effective tool in the future.
 2. Reduction in Groundwater Storage – Due to our strong surface water right we are a net importer to groundwater. In other words, we recharge more water to the aquifer than we extract.
 3. Seawater Intrusion – This does not apply to our subbasin.
 4. Degraded Water Quality – We have monitored the water quality of our wells and coupled with the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program, we will be in compliance.
 5. Land Subsidence – We are experiencing land subsidence caused from pumpers outside of our service area. We will work through a Water Resource Management Plan to reduce and mitigate subsidence caused by others.
 6. Depletions of interconnected surface water – The typical direction of groundwater flow is out of our GSA boundary. The groundwater gradient away from our district is a sign that we have not impacted interconnected surface water.

Important Dates:

- June 30, 2017 – GSA coverage deadline
- July 1, 2017 – SWRCB intervention for areas not managed under a GSA
- January 31, 2020 – Adopted and approved GSP deadline
- February 1, 2020 – SWRCB intervention if a sufficient GSP has not been adopted
- February 1, 2025 – SWRCB intervention is DWR rejects GSP (5 year reviews)
- 2040 – Sustainable Management goal for basins that are currently in critical overdraft

Websites:

- SGMA home - <http://water.ca.gov/groundwater/sgm/index.cfm>
- GSA's - <http://water.ca.gov/groundwater/sgm/gsa.cfm>
- GSP's - <http://water.ca.gov/groundwater/sgm/gsp.cfm>