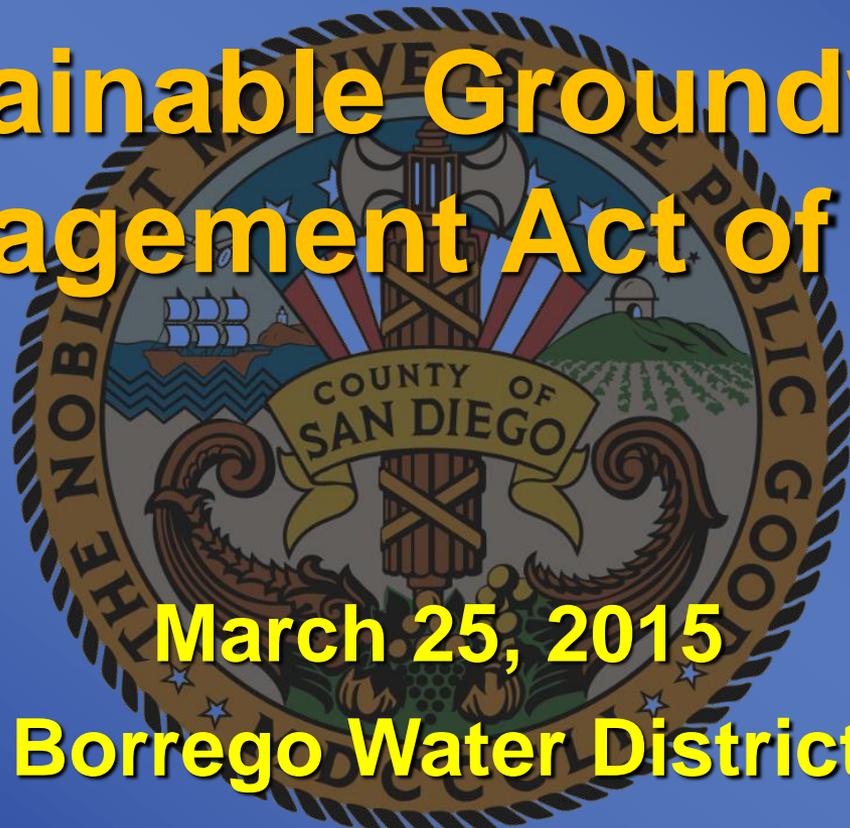


# **Sustainable Groundwater Management Act of 2014**



**March 25, 2015**

**Borrego Water District  
2015 Town Hall Meeting**

# Sustainable Groundwater Management Act of 2014



## Three Bills:

- SB 1168 (Pavley)
- SB 1319 (Pavley)
- AB 1739 (Dickinson)



**Intent:** *“to strengthen local groundwater management and monitoring of local groundwater basins most critical to the state’s water needs.”*

# Legislative Context



## Why Now?

- Three Years of Drought
- Diminished Surface Water Supplies
- Increased Groundwater Pumping
- Increasing Groundwater Impacts
- Subsidence Concerns

# Who is Affected?



- Groundwater Extractors in High or Medium Priority Basins
- Existing Groundwater Management Agencies
- Local Land Use Agencies

# Who is Not Affected?



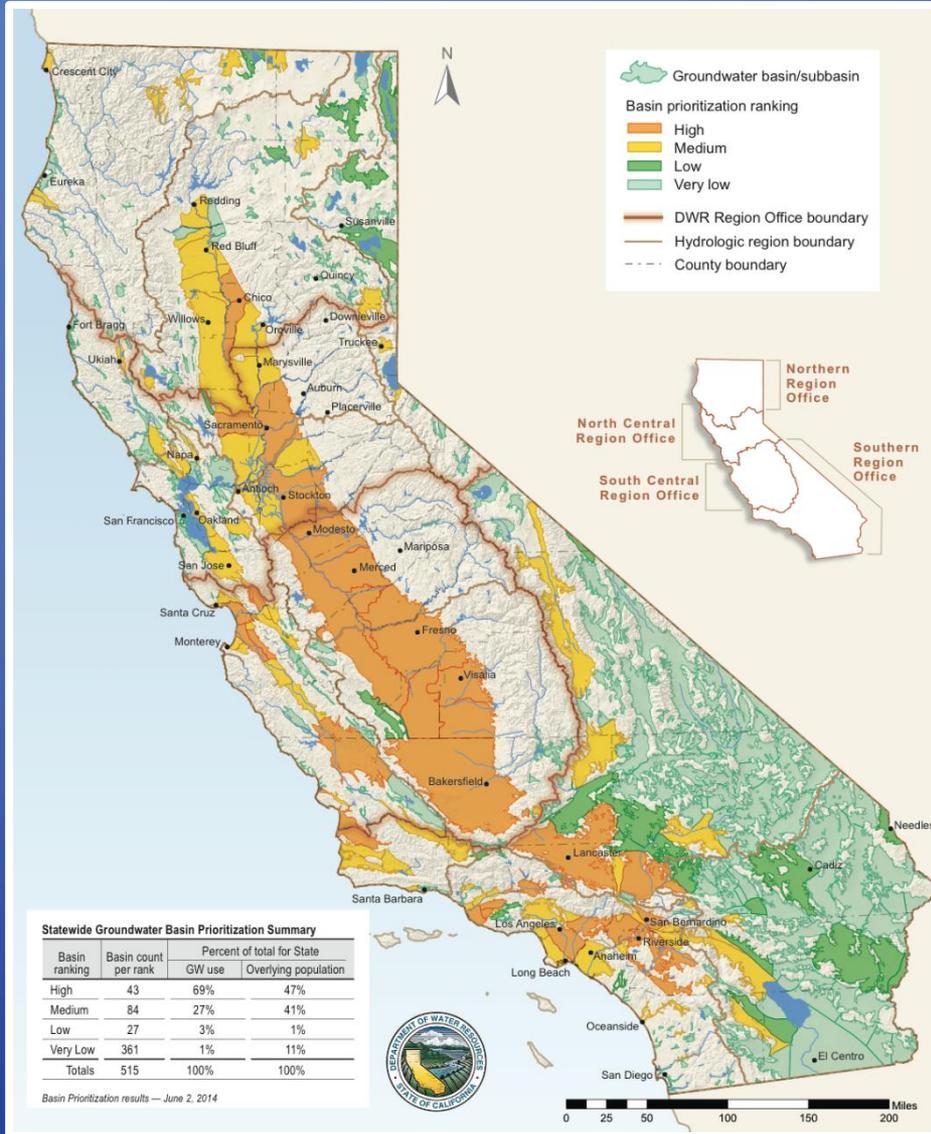
- Groundwater Extractors in Low and Very Low Priority Basins
- Existing Adjudicated Basins
- De Minimis Extractors (<2 acre-feet per year for domestic purposes)

# Basin Prioritization Criteria



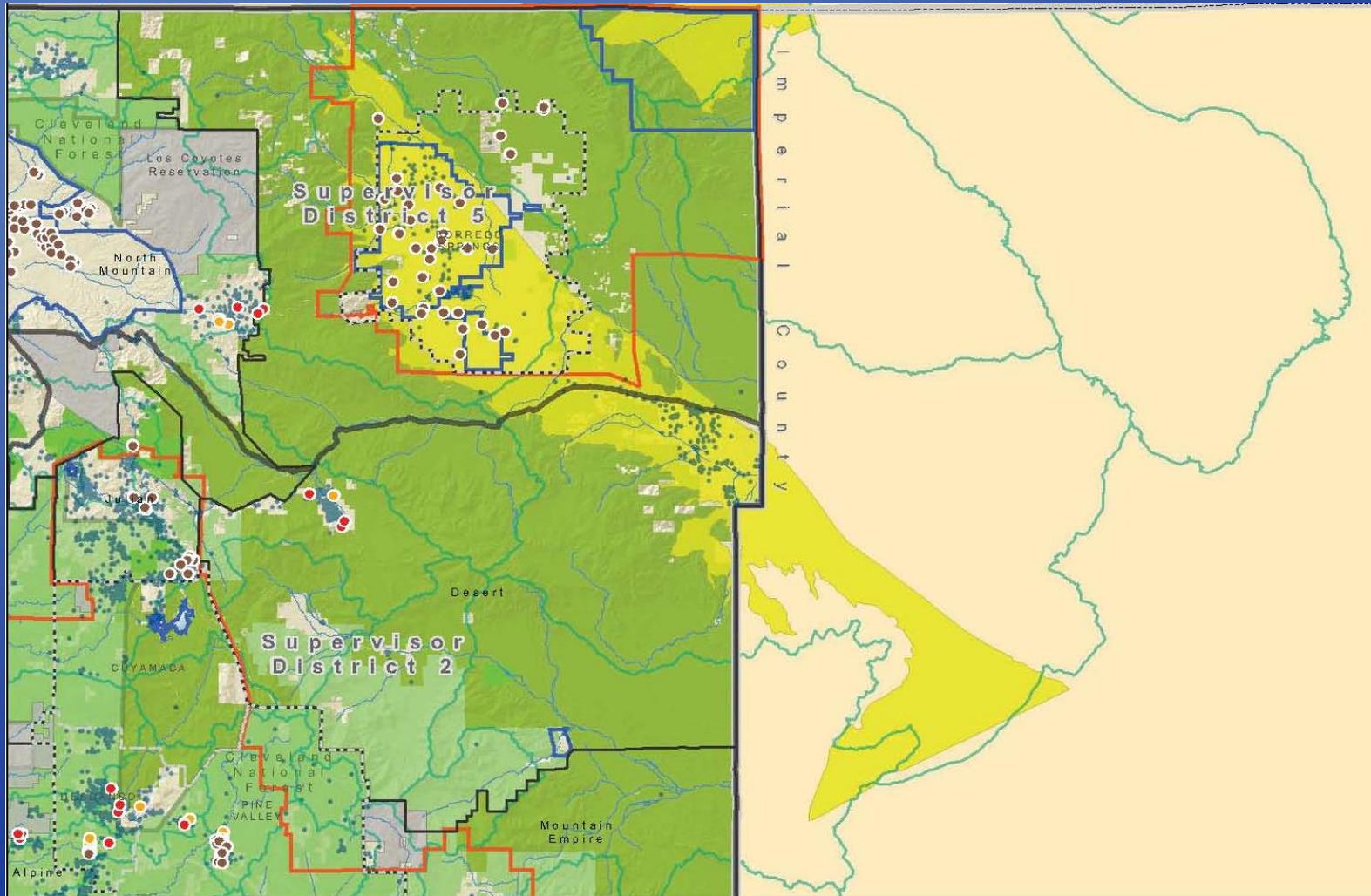
- Population
- Projected Growth of Overlying Population
- # of Public Supply Wells
- Total # of Wells
- Irrigated Acreage
- Reliance on Groundwater
- Documented Groundwater Impacts
- Adverse impacts to local habitats, streamflows

# Basin Prioritization



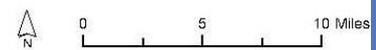


# Basin Prioritization



- |                                 |                                       |   |             |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|-------------|
| ● Active Monitoring Wells       | ▭ Fire Protection                     | ■ Basin Prioritization Ranking - Medium | ■ Ownership |
| ● Inactive Monitoring Wells     | ▭ Water Districts                     | ■ Tribal Lands                          | ■ Federal   |
| ● Other Entity Monitoring Wells | ▭ Hydrologic Basins within Watersheds | ▭ Supervisor Districts                  | ■ State     |
| ● DEH Well Log                  | ▭ County Water Authority Boundary     |   | ■ County    |

**Borrego Valley Basin**



# Time Frame for Success



Date	Action
June 30, 2017	Formation of Groundwater Sustainability Agencies
January 31, 2020	Completion of Groundwater Sustainability Plans Critically Overdrafted Basins
January 31, 2022	Completion of Groundwater Sustainability Plans All Other Basins
20-Year Implementation Period	Implementation of Groundwater Sustainability Plans

Following above time frames ensures local agencies from state intervention

# Groundwater Sustainability Agency



- Local agency or agencies may form Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA)
- “Local Agency:”
  - local public agency with water supply, water management, or land use responsibilities within a groundwater basin
- Counties presumed responsible for all areas not otherwise covered
- Must be formed by June 30, 2017

# Public Outreach



Develop a robust and transparent public outreach program:

- Identify/engage all potential interested parties/stakeholders
- Borrego Springs Sponsor Group
- Borrego Water Coalition

# Groundwater Sustainability Plans



- Must Cover the Entire Basin
- Types of Plans
  - Single Plan / One GSA
  - Single Plan / Multiple GSAs
  - Multiple Plans / Multiple GSAs
- Plans are Exempt from California Environmental Quality Act (implementation is not presently)

# Groundwater Sustainability Plans



## Components:

- DWR Guidelines to be developed by June 2016
- 50 year planning horizon
- Achieve sustainability in 20 years
- Interim milestones every 5 years
- Must have measurable objectives

# Groundwater Sustainability Plans



## What is Sustainable Groundwater Management?

Manage groundwater to prevent “undesirable results” (significant & unreasonable standard):

- Chronic lowering of groundwater levels
- Reduction of groundwater storage
- Seawater intrusion
- Degraded water quality / contaminant plume migration
- Land subsidence
- Depletions of interconnected surface water

# Groundwater Sustainability Plans



## Potential Groundwater Management Tools

- Register/Meter Groundwater Wells
- Measure Extractions and Water Levels
- Require Extraction/Water Level Reports
- Set Well Extraction Limitations
- Assess Fees

# State Role – Department of Water Resources



- Basin Boundary Adjustments
- Groundwater Sustainability Plan Components
- Proposition 1 - \$100 million to assist in implementation
- Review/Assessment of Groundwater Sustainability Plans
- Corrective actions for deficiencies

# State Role – State Water Resources Control Board



- If deadlines are exceeded for formation of GSA or completion of GSP, State may intervene
- Designate basin as “probationary”
- Have authority to create an interim plan for basin until GSAs are formed and compliant GSP is completed.

# Land Use Coordination



- County General Plan and Zoning
- Future Discretionary Development Projects
- Groundwater Ordinance

# Next Steps



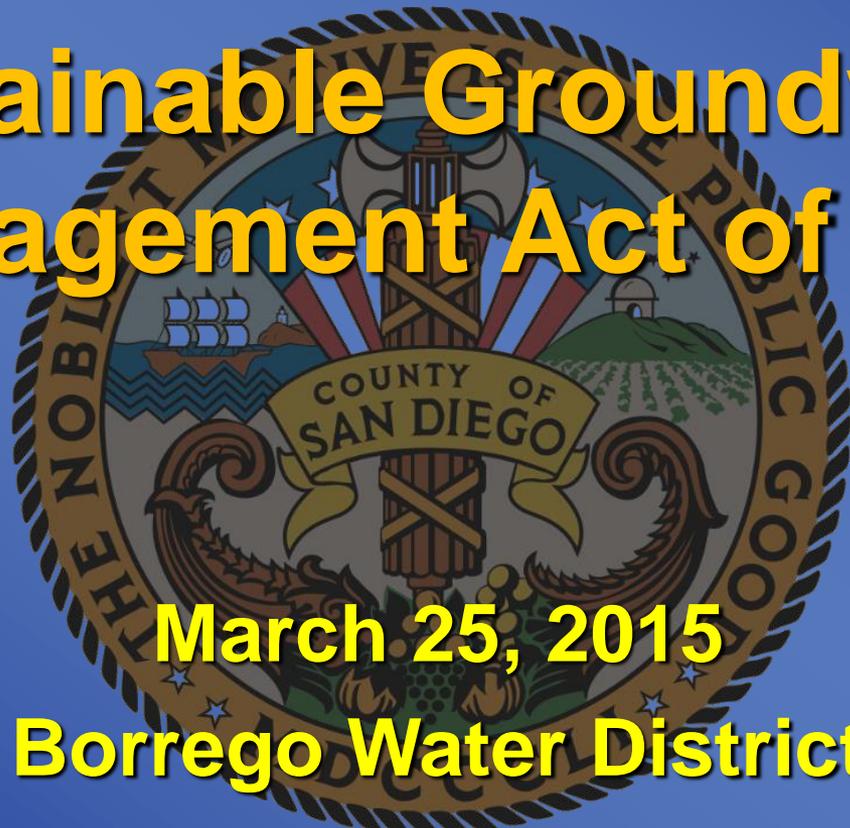
- Local Outreach and Communication
  - Develop clear understanding of the legislation
  - Groundwater Sustainability Agency Formation
  - Groundwater Sustainability Plan Development
  - Groundwater Sustainability Plan Implementation
- 2015 Legislation – technical cleanup, expedited adjudication?
- Upcoming DWR rulemaking to clarify terms, processes, etc.

# Internet Resources



- Department of Water Resources:  
<http://www.water.ca.gov/groundwater/sgm/>
- Association of California Water Agencies  
<http://www.acwa.com/content/groundwater/groundwater-sustainability>

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