

Non-Public Agency Groundwater User Participation

Statutory Requirements for Stakeholder Engagement

- ✓ “Before electing to be a groundwater sustainability agency... the local agency or agencies shall hold a public hearing” (Water Code Sec. 10723 (b)).”
- ✓ A list of interested parties [shall be] developed [along with] an explanation of how their interests will be considered” (Water Code Sec. 10723.8.(a)(4)).
- ✓ “The groundwater sustainability agency shall consider the interests of all beneficial uses and users of groundwater” (Water Code Sec. 10723.2).
 - *Holders of overlying groundwater rights, including:*
 - *Agricultural users.*
 - *Domestic well owners.*
 - *Municipal well operators.*
 - *Public water systems.*
 - *Local land use planning agencies.*
 - *Environmental users of groundwater.*
 - *Surface water users, if there is a hydrologic connection between surface and groundwater bodies.*
 - *The federal government, including, but not limited to, the military and managers of federal lands.*
 - *California Native American Tribes.*
 - *Disadvantaged communities (DAC), including, but not limited to, those served by private domestic wells or small community water systems.*
- ✓ “The groundwater sustainability agency shall encourage the active involvement of diverse social, cultural, and economic elements of the population within the groundwater basin” (Water Code Sec. 10727.8(a)).

Statutory Requirements for Providing Notice to Stakeholders

- ✓ GSA must establish and maintain a list of persons interested in receiving notices regarding plan preparation, meeting announcements, and availability of draft plans, maps, and other relevant documents” (CA Water Code Sec. 10723.4).
- ✓ A list of interested parties [shall be] developed [along with] an explanation of how their interests will be considered” (CA Water Code Sec. 10723.8.(a)(4)).

Statutory Requirements to Stakeholder Involvement in GSP Development

- ✓ “A groundwater sustainability agency may adopt or amend a groundwater sustainability plan after a public hearing” (CA Water Code Sec. 10728.4).
 - GSP Notice and Communication (GSP Regulations 354.10)
 - Each GSP must include the notification and communication to interested parties
 - A description of beneficial users...types of parties representing those interests and the nature of consultation.
 - Any person may provide comments to DWR regarding a proposed or adopted GSP. (GSP Regulations 353.8)

Advisory Committee

- ✓ “The GSA may appoint and consult with an advisory committee consisting of interested parties for the purposes of developing and implementing a groundwater sustainability plan.” (WC Section 10727.8)

Statutory Requirements to Hold Public Hearings

- ✓ GSAs must hold a public hearing before they
 - Elect to be a groundwater sustainability agency... the local agency or agencies shall hold a public hearing” (CA Water Code Sec. 10723 (b)).
 - Adopt or amend a groundwater sustainability plan after a public hearing (Water Code Sec. 10728.4).
 - Impose or increase a fee (Water Code Sec. 10730(b)(1)).

Source: Paul Gosselin, Director, Butte County Water and Resource Conservation